



Hamilton County

County Administrator

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Gregory Hartmann
David Pepper
Todd Portune

County Administration Building, Room 603
138 East Court Street, Cincinnati, OH 45202-1226

ADMINISTRATOR
Patrick J. Thompson
Phone: (513) 946-4420

Phone: (513) 946-4400
Fax: (513) 946-4330
TDD/TTY: (513) 946-4719
www.hamiltoncountyohio.gov

To: Board of County Commissioners

From: Patrick Thompson, County Administrator

Subject: 2011 Citizen Survey Results

Date: August 20, 2010

This memo transmits the results of the 2011 Hamilton County citizen survey. The survey was completed by 1,336 county residents, a decrease of 456 from the 2010 survey; however, the completion rate (the percent of people beginning the survey who also completed it) increased by 6.7% to 81.2%. Administration believes that the lack of a ballpark ticket incentive may have decreased the number of responses, but it also may have assured more commitment from those who took the survey. In addition to the survey results (Attachment A), this communication also includes a geo-coding of survey participants by zip code (Attachment B).

Administration publicized the survey through stories in local media (multiple pieces in the Enquirer, on WVXU, and in Cincinnati CityBeat); through email to county-involved groups and Hello Hamilton County readers; inclusion in email newsletters and websites from organizations like the Cincinnati USA Chamber, Invest in Neighborhoods, and Soapbox Cincinnati; and through communications to local government bloggers.

Caveats

While reviewing the survey results, please keep in mind a few caveats about how the survey was designed and administered that may have had an impact on the results:

- The survey was self-selecting, so respondents motivated by specific topic areas may have been more likely to respond en masse.
- The survey was administered online only, so respondents may skew more affluent and more technology-savvy than the general population.
- The survey questions asked respondents to choose responses closest to their own opinions, so it is best to consider the general direction of responses rather than the specific details of them. A number of respondents commented regarding quarrels with the details in the responses.

Survey Comments

In addition to the survey results attached with this communication, Administration will share under a separate cover the individual respondent comments in the free-form field provided at the end of the survey. Of the 1,336 respondents, 487, or 36%, also included text in this field.



A review of all of the comments provided a few recurring items of note:

- The issue raised the most by commenters was support for some consolidation of government services within the county, many of them specifically calling for a uni-governmental approach that would combine municipal and county governments.
- Many commenters expressed support for the professional sports teams and/or their patrons closing all or part of the stadium sales tax fund deficit, an option that was intentionally referenced in the fund deficit question but excluded as an response. A number of commenters also advocated for closing the fund deficit by reducing the county's operating budget.
- Transportation issues elicited a fair number of comments, including many comments calling for a more county-wide or regional approach to mass transportation planning, particularly in light of recent developments regarding funding for the streetcar and the eastern corridor projects. The city of Cincinnati's streetcar issue drew the ire of many commenters, while a few recognized there is no direct county involvement in the project. The light rail plans in the county also drew a number of comments, with as much or more support for light rail as there was against it.

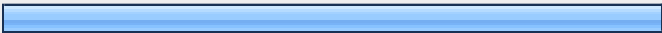
The uni-government and mass transportation planning issues were the two most strikingly repeated comments as they both presented clear perspectives from respondents that were not addressed in the body of the survey.

2011 Hamilton County Citizen Survey




1. Do you live in Hamilton County?

	Response Percent	Response Count
Yes 	97.4%	1,603
No 	2.6%	43
<i>answered question</i>		1,646
<i>skipped question</i>		0




2. What is your zip code?

	Response Percent	Response Count
ZIP: 	100.0%	1,583
<i>answered question</i>		1,583
<i>skipped question</i>		63

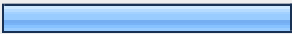
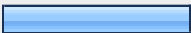
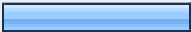
3. Currently both the City of Cincinnati and Hamilton County operate 911 emergency call centers. The county commission has recently voted to support the merger of 911 operations. Which of the following statements best represents your position on such a consolidation?

	Response Percent	Response Count
<p>I oppose the consolidation of the call centers, as it is not certain that there will be a cost savings to the merger. I think there is value in local control of emergency response in the City of Cincinnati and Hamilton County due to the diverse requirements of the communities serviced.</p> 	22.7%	339
<p>I support the concept of consolidation with further in-depth study to identify the full impact on countywide level of service and all potential costs or savings involved.</p> 	72.0%	1,076
<p>I support consolidating some of the operating contracts of the two centers, but not the management functions. This approach won't save a great deal and will have no impact on current levels of service.</p> 	5.3%	79
answered question		1,494
skipped question		152

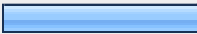
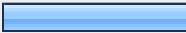

4. Land banking is the practice of purchasing raw or underused land with the intent to hold on to it until such a time as it can be put to a more productive purpose according to a predetermined strategy. Which statement below best reflects your opinion of a Hamilton County proposal to establish a land bank?

	Response Percent	Response Count
<p>I'm concerned about the government investing public funding in speculative real estate projects and I think private investors would better manage such ventures.</p> 	31.5%	464
<p>There might be some situations where public acquisition of underused land is appropriate, but I think the County should approach each opportunity very carefully.</p> 	45.1%	665
<p>Land banking is a good way for the county to support responsible economic and community development and grow its tax base.</p> 	23.4%	344
answered question		1,473
skipped question		173



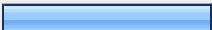
5. The Government Reform Task Force is currently reviewing the existing structure of Hamilton County government to determine whether or not to recommend a charter or home-rule structure that would allow the county more flexibility in its organization. (A charter county government would have no impact on current municipal or township structures.) Which position below best reflects your opinion on county government reform?

	Response Percent	Response Count
<p>I support a charter reform that consolidates some or all of the eight separately elected offices (Prosecutor, Sheriff, Coroner, Engineer, Recorder, Auditor, Treasurer, and Clerk of Courts) under a county commission and administrator. A consolidated county government can more effectively implement policy priorities and establish county-wide standards, and its actions will be more transparent to the media and the public.</p> 	43.6%	593
<p>I prefer that the county maintain its existing structure because independently elected officials check and balance the actions of each other and limit any single office from exercising unilateral control over county policies.</p> 	28.3%	384
<p>While I do not support a charter reform, I'm in favor of existing elected officials committing to consolidate county support services and coordinate policy efforts. It's important that they be held accountable by the media, the electorate and other parties for any lack of participation in efforts to consolidate county support services.</p> 	28.1%	382
answered question		1,359
skipped question		287


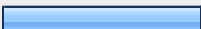


6. Hamilton County is contemplating a local contracting policy that will work to ensure, to the greatest extent allowable by law, that dollars spent on public projects and contracts get spent in Hamilton County and create revenues for workers living in Hamilton County, including creating new jobs for county residents. Which of the following best represents your position?

		Response Percent	Response Count
I think it's important to support local businesses and encourage the county to implement a policy that ensures local investment over firms outside of the county.		29.4%	409
Investing county dollars into local businesses also helps to address underlying local economic issues like unemployment and poverty.			
I believe the county should operate like any other business and contract with companies that can provide the best service for the best value, regardless of where they're located.		27.6%	384
Local presence should be given consideration in contracting decisions, but it should not necessarily offset other benefits of contracting with firms outside the county.		42.9%	596
<i>answered question</i>			1,389
<i>skipped question</i>			257




7. Ohio courts have consistently found that a Sheriff's mandated duties do not require road patrols for the county's cities and townships, but a Sheriff may provide patrols and may be reimbursed for those services by the benefitting jurisdictions. Currently the Hamilton County Sheriff's office provides road patrol services for 11 jurisdictions, some of which is reimbursed. Which of the following statements best represents your position on the provision of road patrols?

	Response Percent	Response Count
<p>All county road patrols should be reimbursed. Most cities and townships pay for their own patrols through local taxes. My county taxes shouldn't be used to subsidize jurisdictions that choose not to pay for their own.</p> 	44.4%	599
<p>The Sheriff should provide as much patrol service as possible, regardless of reimbursement, because it encourages a consolidation of law enforcement across the entire county.</p> 	24.4%	329
<p>Most Sheriff's road patrols should be reimbursed, but exceptions might be made for particularly small or rural jurisdictions, or temporarily for those in financial crisis.</p> 	31.2%	421
answered question		1,349
skipped question		297





8. With the closure in 2009 of over 800 county jail beds in Queensgate, the Hamilton County Justice Center is particularly crowded, with little or no room for chronic, low-level repeat offenders who often need a period of jail-based treatment intervention. Voters twice rejected adding 1000 traditional jail beds to the system. Another option for addressing the overcrowding is a new transitioning and community corrections center (400-600 beds) focused specifically on physical and psychological diagnostics, rehabilitation and community reentry, but such a solution would require public support of a new revenue source. Which response best represents your opinion of this proposal?

		Response Percent	Response Count
I think it's important to break the cycle of repeat offending and this may be the best solution, even if in the beginning it costs more in taxes.		38.9%	529
While I support the county's efforts to address repeat offenders, I'm concerned about higher taxes and bigger government. I'd prefer the county look for alternatives to building and operating another corrections facility.		29.8%	405
I don't think you can effectively rehabilitate criminals. If the county's going to build another corrections center, it should be a traditional jail.		19.9%	271
The county has too many rehabilitation programs as it is. Start by cutting those and pass the savings along to the taxpayers.		11.5%	156
answered question			1,361
skipped question			285

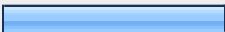
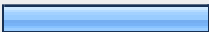
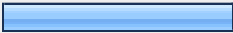

9. One factor in local jail crowding is the incarceration of low level drug offenders either awaiting trial, or completing sentences on violations of ordinances like the city of Cincinnati's marijuana law. Some people question the use of limited public resources enforcing these laws and instead view the nation's drug use problem as a civil public health issue. Which of the following best represents your view?

	Response Percent	Response Count
We should enforce all drug laws to the fullest extent, including incarceration. 	19.7%	269
Drug laws are, like prohibition laws, largely ineffective. We should legalize drugs and tax them as a revenue source. 	36.9%	503
Only drug offenses resulting in violent physical harm to another should result in incarceration. All other offenders should be treated for the public health issues they present and not take up jail space. 	43.4%	592
<i>answered question</i>		1,364
<i>skipped question</i>		282

10. Due to sales tax performance below initial estimates, the fund that supports the stadium developments on the Ohio riverfront is facing substantial deficits in the years ahead. All solutions to the deficit anticipate some concessions from the Reds and Bengals, but will also require government action. Which of the following proposals are acceptable to you for resolving the fund deficit? (You may select more than one.)

		Response Percent	Response Count
Levying a new sales tax over a limited period of time, five to ten years at maximum.		21.2%	286
Capping the current property tax rebate at the amount received on a home valued at \$153,000. This proposal would not impact the rebate for 60% of the county's homeowners.		33.2%	448
Reducing the property tax rebate, but making equal reductions in voted tax levies (indigent care, etc.) to make up for the lost rebate.		16.4%	222
None of the above.		44.6%	603
answered question			1,351
skipped question			295

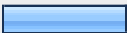
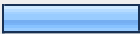

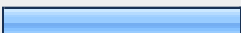
11. Under the taxing authority of the Board of County Commissioners, county citizens currently support voted property tax levies in nine different functional areas, ranging from the regional crime information center to mental health and children's services, to the zoo and indigent health care. Which of the following proposals would you support regarding how property tax levies are put before voters? (You may select more than one.)

		Response Percent	Response Count
Revise levy policies to restrict which organizations might qualify for tax levy support (perhaps by examining the constituencies benefitting from levy proceeds, the ability of the private sector to support services, and the models for public support in other regions).		33.2%	442
Consider reducing the number of proposed levies by consolidating similar services (e.g. health-related efforts) into larger tax levy offerings.		31.0%	413
Consider putting all voted property tax levies on the ballot at the same time every five years.		34.7%	462
None of the above.		27.9%	372
answered question			1,333
skipped question			313


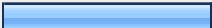
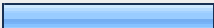
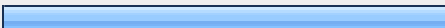

12. The State of Ohio has made many revisions to the rules for conducting elections in recent years. Which of the following other election-related proposals would you support? (You may select more than one.)

	Response Percent	Response Count
<p>Convert some or all elections to vote-by-mail. The current Ohio system allows all citizens to vote by mail if they choose, thus mandating that all Boards of Elections simultaneously operate both mail and in-person voting processes. Conversion to a single vote-by-mail system would eliminate substantial election costs and would be consistent with the security assumptions the State currently has in place.</p> 	40.3%	541
<p>Pursue internet voting options. Currently 33 states allow some form of internet-based voting. In many instances it is still limited to pilot sites, overseas and military voting due to security concerns.</p> 	45.0%	605
<p>Create "super precincts" which substantially reduce the number of polling places in the county, but allow citizens to vote at whatever location is most convenient for them.</p> 	36.3%	487
<p>None of the above</p> 	23.6%	317
answered question		1,343
skipped question		303

13. Despite the implementation of federal health care reform, there are serious issues affecting the general status of public health in Hamilton County, including distressing rates of infant mortality, obesity and diabetes. Over 100,000 county residents have no health insurance, and emergency rooms are frequently overcrowded with non-emergency usage. Which of the following other public health proposals would you support? (You may select more than one.)

		Response Percent	Response Count
Redirect public health levies to target specific health care needs.		18.2%	242
Adopt a new countywide health care levy directed toward specific targeted issues of public health.		20.5%	273
Make a public commitment to redirect health care resources toward wellness and preventative medicine as opposed to reacting to issues of illness.		52.6%	701
None of the above.		36.0%	479
answered question			1,332
skipped question			314



14. Hamilton County is pursuing public transportation improvements that are reusing existing railroad track and right of way for the purpose of developing commuter rail service into downtown. The county is working with the state of Ohio to leverage the federal investment in the cross-state rail line from Cincinnati to Cleveland to further reduce local costs and expedite local service. Currently the county and the state are working to decide where a station should be located to accommodate passenger transfer onto a local train to get into Cincinnati. Which of the following positions do you support for locating a rail transfer station? (You may select more than one.)

	Response Percent	Response Count
<p>The transfer station needs to take into account the city of Cincinnati's light rail and streetcar plans and provide connections to that system.</p> 	53.3%	717
<p>A station needs to be integrated with regional planning for highway and light rail access along the eastern corridor (through Anderson and Columbia Townships in Hamilton County and Union and Miami Townships in Clermont County).</p> 	31.1%	419
<p>The station placement should take into consideration a location where project leaders may wish to encourage strategic growth and economic development.</p> 	31.9%	429
<p>The station location should take advantage of existing and legacy transportation nodes (like Government Square in downtown Cincinnati, the Union Terminal, or the riverfront transit center).</p> 	67.0%	902
<p>None of the above.</p> 	17.1%	230
answered question		1,346

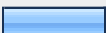
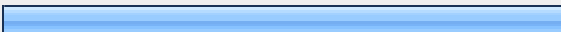
skipped question

300

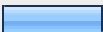
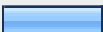
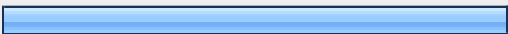
15. Have you ever before provided input in the County budget process?

	Response Percent	Response Count
Yes 	15.9%	214
No 	84.1%	1,136
<i>answered question</i>		1,350
<i>skipped question</i>		296





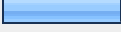

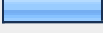
16. Have you ever attended a Hamilton County budget hearing?

	Response Percent	Response Count
Yes 	15.1%	203
No 	84.9%	1,142
<i>answered question</i>		1,345
<i>skipped question</i>		301

17. What time of day would it be most conducive to you to attend a public budget hearing?

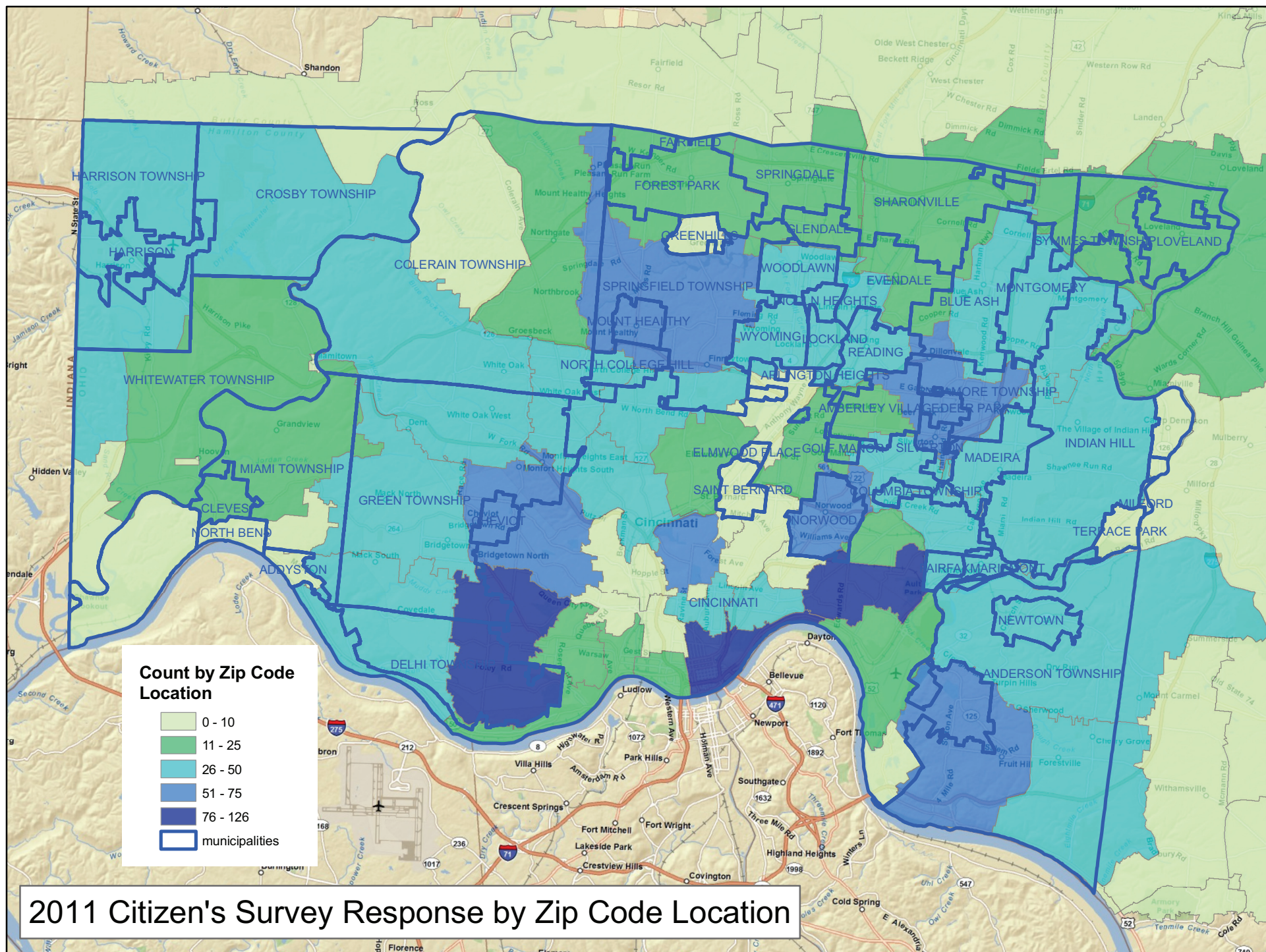
	Response Percent	Response Count
Morning 	14.7%	193
Afternoon 	14.5%	191
Evening 	76.6%	1,006
<i>answered question</i>		1,314
<i>skipped question</i>		332

18. Which locations would it be most conducive to you to attend a public budget hearing?

	Response Percent	Response Count
Northwest (e.g. Crosby/Whitewater Township) 	5.8%	77
North Central (e.g. Springfield Township) 	13.5%	179
Northeast (e.g. Blue Ash/Montgomery) 	20.9%	278
Southwest (e.g. Miami Township/Cleves) 	9.5%	126
Central (e.g. College Hill) 	17.3%	230
Downtown Cincinnati 	48.2%	640
Southeast (e.g. Anderson Township/Mt. Washington) 	14.5%	192
<i>answered question</i>		1,328
<i>skipped question</i>		318

19. Please use the space below to provide additional input on any of the issues raised in the citizen survey, or on any other public policy issues.

	Response Count
	487
<i>answered question</i>	487
<i>skipped question</i>	1,159



Hamilton County needs to reduce unnecessary spending and cut services to citizens where there is no right to services such as welfare, cash assistance, health care, etc. Hamilton County needs to keep services that provide public safety.

The stadiums are a waste of money and should've never been the county's responsibility. Also, the banks project and rail system is a complete waste of money. This money could be better used to keep citizens employed and off of public assistance.

County employees have not received a cost of living increase since 1% in 2007. Why should we be penalized, we pay our taxes like everyone else.

Learn to balance a budget like most people do in there own homes. I work for the county and have been very disapointed in this county for the past few years. stop the games and get your act together. balance the budget! enough on the taxes. i can not afford to take my grandchild to a game at the stadium but you want to take money from the indigent to support the stadium..shame on you.

Limit government and taxes by saying no to more requests for spending and by not allowing a county charter effort to impose more regulation and taxes to succeed.

The statement that many jail beds are filled with low level offenders is inaccurate.

I liked the idea of taking money from the UC indigent care and use it for the Stadium fund. The county should not be funding a private hospitable.

MAKE MSD COUNTY OWNED AND COUNTY RUN

As an employee of Hamilton county, I have recently been absolutely disgusted with the way the county and the city of Cincinnati have been just blowing the money they have. Hamilton county laid off a significant number of employees, then complained that they lost tax revenue. What did you expect when you laid off, furloughed or otherwise hurt your own employees. They will not have the additional money to purchase products, houses, cars etc to help the income of the county. Take care of your workers and they will take care of you. Most disconcerting to me is the effort to raise my property taxes... Again. They were raised last year (without informing me so that my escrow was short), I was furloughed, I haven't had a pay raise in over three years and now you want to raise my taxes again? When will it end? I love my job and I love working for the county, but I almost can't afford to work for the government anymore. The county is going to lose a lot of very qualified very good employees if it keeps up its antics. I know times are tough and we need to tighten our belts, but maybe we should do so by making people responsible for their own decisions and stop giving out so many handouts to people who point the finger at everyone else as to why they aren't millionaires. Why should my money go to tell someone that if they eat mcdonalds everyday they're going to get fat. That's just common sense. Quit spending my money on other peoples decisions to be unhealthy. That includes obesity, diabetes and smoking campaigns. Lets' start making people responsible for their own actions and quit giving them handouts. Let area charities and churches do that work, not the county. End of rant.

The City is not Safe

The Banks will fail

A new jail will not deter crime

New tax levies and spending will not solve these issues...

Real Estate will not sell in Hamilton County

No one is living in the houses, the city full of homeless and unemployed people - haven't you noticed? Or is the view obstructed where you live

We need

Local services and Goods, Local jobs, Good Citizens and people who care about where they live and work. We have criminal transients, gang ridden streets and rampant home invasions

everyone is leaving this area - haven't you noticed?

So you are building a Casino, more bars and a HUGE parking garage and want to know if you should raise taxes to build a jail, that will also overflow maybe they can take the mass transit in from Cleveland...

TAKE CARE OF THE CHILDREN

maybe they will be more effective than we are at changing this sad state of affairs

We are poor stewards of a once beautiful world...

We broke the Sun,
the Sea is bleeding
creating a generation
forever needing
Miles of paper
Minutes of Meetings
A bunch of busy
nothing changing for
The Good

It's not even mandatory for a County Foster Parent to enroll a developmentally delayed child in a State program to help developmentally delayed children

IF government is not working in harmonic unity for the children none of this other garbage matters anyway

Don't ask me about levies for sports stadiums...

Go tax the players for a kickback - they make the ungodly sums and reek of decadence...

Go bet at their dog fights and leave me alone to cry and pray for THE CHILDREN who suffer their needs basking in the bright casino footlights...

I think the trolley system is ridiculous. Why can't they purchase busses that look like trollies - they have them in Cleveland - and allocate a lane for them to circle their route? That way, routes can be changed and if it is not successful, we wouldn't have torn up all the street to install rails.

I also think the Reds and Bengals should totally take over both stadiums and pay the City and County rent on the land. It is wrong to pay for the luxuries of entertainment when basic resident needs can not be met.

With regard to the stadium fund, I've read that the Bengals have offered to pay a certain amount of money as long as they are allowed the possibility of leaving the city in so many years. I suggest offering to the Bengals that if they pay for the remainder of the stadium costs, they are allowed the possibility to leave whenever they would like. I feel like the team is constantly threatening to leave, so maybe it would be better for the city if they did leave. We built the new stadium for them because they were threatening to leave at the time. So, now I say let them pay for their precious stadium, and then let them go. If you love something, set it free; if it comes back it's yours, if it doesn't, it was never yours to begin with.

The Bengals and Reds should be subsidized by cutting voter mandated indigent services.

The county courts should be special courts with limited jurisdiction as to certain judges. The judges are not knowledgeable and learn at the expense of the uninformed public.

The City of Cincinnati should roll back its criminalization of a marijuana joint. It should be a minor misdemeanor. The way it is now prevents many young people from obtaining employment because of a "drug" conviction. City council was stupid for adopting such a policy. It has destroyed many opportunities without good reason.

Transportation is not the only public infrastructure to be concerned about.

Stop wasting taxpayer's money on "The Banks" project. This is why the stadium fund is underwater. Developing the city's riverfront was not part of the sales tax pitch.

Do not spend money you don't have. Use some common sense and remember that government can't solve every problem.

Make the Reds & Bengals re-negotiate their stadium deals or they can leave town! Focus on casino & Banks construction, light rail project and cut government spending/government jobs. Voters will make more taxes for mental health facilities before a jail.

I think one of our biggest challenges lies with the lack of understanding among residents as to how things are paid for. Taxes have not gone up, they have gone down. A large group of people had their property taxes reduced significantly, but don't seem to remember this when considering other tax issues.

Educating the public is a tricky task - but an uneducated public spends time rallying for streetcar funds to pay for teachers rather than focusing their efforts on finding and/or supporting real solutions.

I like Hamilton county but what I was thinking Indian hill residents should not be allowed to come to Madeira

Whatever happened to consolidated City and County governments?

Do not support ObamaCare.

Do not support more federal government spending.

Would you stop spending money planning the riverfront and actually do something nice like they did in Newport to help downtown thrive like it should.

Stop making deals with the Bengals that put us further in debt to them. Work toward a future date where we are out from under their thumb.

Give County employees annual raises or suffer the consequences of losing all your good people.

Quit making decisions solely based on reelection and work for the people instead.

MSD should be county owned and managed. I also believe that regionalism of services should be utilized as much as possible to eliminate as much duplication of management for the same services which should reduce management costs and put more money into providing the service. We, the County, need to develop a much better public transit system, integrated with rail, light rail, and buses so that anyone from any part of the county, or for that matter, any visitor to the county, can easily figure it out and use it.

Stay within your budget, don't rob Peter to pay Paul. When one program is out of money tuff! cut back services. The light rail system needs to be scrapped.

Give employees raises, and start negotiating starting salaries. You also need to work on diversity issues in the county offices.

Independent 3rd parties should be utilized to determine possible cost savings within each of the county departments. The sole determination of what services are important, and the efficiency of each department should not be left to department commissioners, directors or internal committees. These types of decision makers are often emotionally biased based on interpersonal relationships with their employees, and often blinded by ambition and pride. Pay the workers fair wages and expect more out of each individual. Institute policies that allow for the removal of subpar workers as the county currently supports a considerable amount of them at the expense of the overall budget and every citizen in the county.

I think it's time for our elected officials to start doing their job. I'm tired of everything being put to a public vote. Nobody wants to hear "tax" and will never vote a new tax through. Just implement the tax and let COAST and the other loonies scream. Most counties across the U.S. that contain a city have much higher sales tax than Hamilton County. I think it's time we stop abusing the homeowner by placing the tax burden on them and start using our sales tax to collect revenues from tourists, renters and the millions of other people who do business in our city.

Consolidate county programs

Give raises to county workers

I understand I have a responsibility as a citizen of Hamilton County to help finance various operations throughout the county.

To be clear- build a jail- reduce programs that attract troublemakers to Hamilton County.

Need a comprehensive transportation plan before one rail is laid. First should be transportation from Airport to downtown.

Thank you for making it easy to contribute my tax paying opinion. -Michael Green of Downtown

I did not like this Citizen Survey this round. It was too technical and subjects most would not have background knowledge. I do for I am very involved with City and County politics. Did not like the answers to the questions. Should have had a comment box, especially when it came to levies. LEVIES should never go to a private entity such as University Hospital. Nor do I want any more of my taxes to go to social services. Nor do I want light rail and the street car. Nor do I want my taxes to go up ... just down. Nor do I want any further property taxes to applied towards Paul Brown Stadium (they are stealing from the County & City). Charge an Admission Tax! Social service programs should be fully cut, especially those who also get funded by State and Federal taxes. We have had enough Section 8 in Westwood, too. Our community is getting killed and take a peak at Harrison Avenue and the abutting streets. They are a mess. Thanks to the County & City handouts over the years. The middle-class is getting poorer and poorer from all the taxes (levies and other social services). I have to say I do appreciate the County staff who has not be given a raise for years just like some private sector. I do feel for them because their bills do go up and they must balance their home bills. The County needs to eliminate some top-heavy salaried employees. Also, no more DOUBLE-DIPPING! I am not saying if someone fully takes his/her retirement benefits and then returns part-time at entry level wage without benefits - this is okay and saves the taxpayer. Well, I could go on and on and on ... By the way, the Commissioners' salaries should be cut in half or more. It is a part-time job. People working full-time in Cincinnati and Hamilton County may never reach a third of the salary. Eliminate the Commissioners automatic raises and COLA. The employees do not get a COLA.

The county should work with the city to create a regional transit network, designed to maximize economic development and help residents to minimize dependence upon their cars an oil. Less emphasis should be placed upon building new roads: let's maintain what we have, but look with a skeptical eye toward new projects or increases of capacity. Road projects should be subjected to the same scrutiny as transit projects, in terms of economic development/return on investment potential.

County Commissioners need to focus on balancing the county budget, ie the stadium shortfall, and stop trying to consolidate and dictate to the elected officials on how they should operate there offices, if they are inefficient and wasteful, the voters will replace them. Commissioners, get your own house in order, before you try to run every one else's. Your Budget office needs to focus on the budget, and stop trying to create and implement policy in the elected officials offices.

Put "MetroGov" on the radar screen, don't stop at just some selected shared services. Citizens would be supportive of a City/County merger - even if the political officeholders wouldn't be.

Using anyplace other than Union Terminal as the local terminus for a Cincinnati-Cleveland light-rail line is pure idiocy and a complete waste of taxpayer's hard-earned money. It was tried before, and was functional, but stupid - the Amtrak station used to be along River Road, which required the trains to _cross the river_ into Kentucky and then come _backwards_ into the puny station. This was a dumb, ridiculous nuisance, and as such, both a waste of time and money. To repeat the same mistake would only be dumber. All the rail lines run TO Union Terminal; going anyplace else is counter to common sense & efficient use of tax money and time.

However, given the state of the economy locally & nationally, any project that isn't immediately focused on trimming budgets, expenses, and the cost and size of local, city & county government and their respective departments, or focusing on making Hamilton County a more favorable environment for business, growth, and development (and thus, real job creation), should be put on hold until such time as there is real and dynamic economic growth such that tax revenues are increasing and such projects could stand a chance of being funded.

Even though the county desperately needs more jail space or local rail service from Downtown to Mason or the Union Center areas along I-75 & I-71 to offer some relief to the rush-hour interstate traffic congestion, these and any other more frivolous projects such as stadium-area development should remain de-prioritized and the county's leadership should focus on balancing budgets and doing only what we can afford.

Putting streetcars back in place in Cincinnati is also an ill-considered concept, (only relative to this survey if county funding comes into play, but, if it does...), due to the simple reality that we HAD streetcars and ELIMINATED THEM. IF they were so great, we would have KEPT them. Yet again, no one seems to be considering what the reasoning was behind why we didn't keep them in the first place. Furthermore, any variety of buses can be dressed up to look exactly like a trolley or streetcar and offer all the nostalgia with none of the downsides of overhead wiring, route limitations, rail tracks in the street, or hundred-million-dollar expense. It couldn't cost much more than \$100-\$200k to get a bus chassis outfitted as a trolley.

The County needs to follow Cincinnati's lead in adopting a "complete streets" mindset for transportation planning. County roads tend to be inferior to those in Cincinnati proper in accommodating pedestrians and cyclists. Also, alternative transportation options need to be better supported by the County, such as light rail and passenger rail projects.

your reform committee is a sham

I think the county needs to have more input on the way the sherriff's office handles their budget. Too many lower level deputies were laid off, while upper level lieutenants and managers are being paid exuberant amounts, and double dipping into the coffers of the pension plans and curnet payroll.

Have the 3C run to Union Terminal and run a streetcar extension to the station

charter government lets the foxes guard the hen house.

sheriff would have more money if the county wouldnt let him buy all the toys he has. why does hamilton county need everything that he buys. it all boils down to politics...the community has no say in it.....hamilton county tax money goes to waste. it is only used to benefit the big man, or the one who has the most power in politics. hamilton county needs new officials.

Stadium Issues: There needs to be some way that the county can leverage monies from the Bengals and Reds stadium. The county has been raked over the coals with the Bengals stadium by paying for everything and getting nothing in return instead, total profit from the stadium goes into Mike Browns pocket and not back into the County General Fund where some of it should go. I wish that I could have the county pay for a business for me where they ask nothing in return and I can pocket all of the profit.

We could always combine the Bengals stadium and the jail so when the home games are over the players can go back to their cells.

Please give serious consideration to the recommendations of the Government Reform Task Force citizens' panel with David Krings.

I think we need to re-examine how we use our police. It seems like, more and more, they are used as revenue generators through application of fines for what are, in all reality, arbitrary and extremely minor traffic violations. This must be considered a conflict of interests and, in addition, sets up the situation where the population at large has a deep distrust and dislike for the police force.

There NEEDS to be more research on the idea of consolidating City/County governing operations. If the research indicates a more agile, efficient, business-friendly system, DO IT regardless of public opinion. That's called leadership.

Hamilton County should seriously examine large-scale consolidation efforts across the county. A uni-gov option should be studied to see if similar economies of scale can be achieved here as has been done elsewhere.

the city should be divided up into 9 districts with each council member being responsible and accountable for a specific district.

Take the Political posturing out of the Commision/Administrations decisions regarding broad public issues. Every decision is based on percieved votes in a future election and/or the will of the counties financial power brokers. At least try to do what is best for the future of the city/county as a whole and not just what is best for an elite few.

It is important that Hamilton County recognize that increasing energy costs will necessitate planning for increased concentration of industry and higher population density residential development.

My major concern in gov't in general, is the number of new plans and continued meetings to discuss new itmes without perfecting or eliminating some inefficient, absolute programs that for the sake of politics stays in operation....My biggest complaint is gov't spends public monies dirrerent than personal monies....Programs and money drains would be evaluated and action taken more quickly than politics allows. Most politicians are more interested in making decisions that foster a career rather than prudent, accountable spending of other's monies....Thanks for the opp to air my opinions.....

Legalize marijuana, stop putting people in jail for using a plant.

Light rail, light rail, light rail!

County and city government need to merge in to one UniGov like Indy, Columbus, Louisville, and most other mid-sized cities. Why is Hamilton County and Cincinnati so behind when it comes to UniGov?

I thought some of the answers are far too specific and leading.

Thank you for asking the public for their opinions on these critical issues facing the County.

I strongly oppose merging hamilton county and the city communcation centers. From personal experience I feel each county should have their own center to handle the community. I think merging would result in a loss of jobs and everyone needs their jobs! Hamilton county dispatchers are trained in all areas of communication wheras the city has dispatchers for individual communications. If a merge does happen the city dispatchers need to be trained on phones, radio and teletype communications so their dispatchers can handle any situation like the county dispatchers can.

More transit! Less Joe Deters!

I think that having a street car is absolutely ridiculous. I just can not comprehend how we can get money for things like that, but have to lay off City & County employees. As a tax payer I refuse to pay for it.

A STREETCAR OR LIGHT RAIL COMMUTER SERVICE SHOULD BE OFFERED FROM THE IMMEDIATE EASTERN AND NORTHERN SUBURBS TO DOWNTOWN CINCINNATI. THIS SHOULD BE INTEGRATED WITH THE PROPOSED CINCINNATI STREETCAR SYSTEM. THE CITY OF CINCINNATI AND HAMILTON COUNTY SHOULD COOPERATE MORE AND WORK TOWARDS A MORE REGIONAL GOVERNMENT MODEL.

The "local control" sacred cow causes huge amounts of waste in redundancy of providing of services across the county. Consolidation is the single most important thing the county can do to move the county into the new world of lower tax revenues. And allowing the Reds and Bengals to leave town would be preferable to raping the taxpayers to pay more for the stupid stadiums. Bedinghouse should be prosecuted.

I support indigent dollars for health care/mental health services. However, it is my understanding that as the medicaid consumer base expands these indigent dollars are used to provide the match for medicaid and not to provide assistance to those with no insurance at all. Not everyone qualifies for medicaid and are 'working poor'.

Get the funds out of the control of the well entrenched establishment.

Sheriff, Prosecutor, etc.

They have proved to double dip, pay outlandish salaries for foreclosure appraisals, build a military empire, over-staff cronies as assistant prosecutors, etc.

The practice of criminalizing quality of life issues is appalling.

While I stated that I support the legalization of drugs, I mean only to refer to marijuana. Marijuana is not addictive and poses less danger to society than alcohol. It can be used medicinally and increases the quality of life for those citizens who suffer from chronic pain or terminal illnesses. I do not believe in incarcerating individuals for the sale, possession or use of marijuana.

However, for more addictive and harmful drugs, I believe that possession and use should only be targeted by law officials if violent or reckless public acts accompany said use. Repeat offenders should enter rehab and counseling.

I think there's needs to be a greater focus on quickly expanding safe transportation options available to Cincinnatians such as a rail public transport and quicker development of bicycling facilities on, near, or separate from roads (The Master Bike Plan's 15 year implementation period is too slow).

Congratulations in asking for on-line input re the budget. Generally, the survey was well worded and sequenced.

In regard to the drug question, I only feel marijuana should be legalised as most other drugs pose severe health problems. In addition to that statement and to the stadium tax issue, legalising marijuana and prostitution and allowing a red light district would provide a tremendous amount of new tax revenue for the county to pay off the stadiums early in all likelihood. Lastly, also in regard to the stadium tax issue, teh adjoining counties to Hamilton were all asked to assist in this endeavor, none of them chose to help, thus I feel a \$1 fee should be issued to all non county resident purchases of all Reds tickets and a \$2 fee should be added to all Bengals tickets. This should help the situation in some way and the out of county visitors tehn truly would be helping pay for the stadiums we all enjoy. But unlike the county residents who pay for the satdiums with nearly every purchase we ever make the out of coucnty residents, come in enjoy the game, bring their own food and beverages and themn return home with minimal slaes tax dollars collected.

Thanks for allowing me this opportunity

Concerning the stadiums and sales tax shortfalls, why are we paying for a private business to operate? I can't even afford to go to a Bengals game and enjoy the stadium that I have to pay for. Raise the rent on the Bengals and Reds and make them pay for their place of business. Better yet, sell them the stadiums and make them maintain them.

Cincinnati Health Dept. should be consolidated with Hamilton County Health District. Hamilton County Health is better run.

Do NOT take money I have voted to support indigent health care/other social services and apply it to those @#\$\$%^& stadiums/millionaire-owned sports teams.

I think the major problem plaguing this county has been lack of vision, leadership and tolerance of diversity -and don't forget corruption(white collar crime) exemplified so well by Joe deters and Simon Leis. We need checks and balances-federal intervention really.

The City of Cincinnati's Marijuana Ordinance is absolutely ridiculous and the County should repudiate it at every opportunity.

The county and its people should consider a better funding structure for the Metro bus system where more funding comes from the county and other transit services such as light rail.

When will the County look into all the double dippers in the county? I think there could be a considerable savings, if all the double dippers were made to retire. If something happened to a double dipper, like an accident or a heart attack, someone would have to do their job. So I think all the double dippers are replaceable.

I think the arrangement created years ago to fund the stadium was one of the biggest mistakes made (Bedinghaus to blame) I know we have to fix the mess now but I am appalled at how irresponsible the Bengal owners and managers are acting. Please work hard on getting support from them as they have benifitted beyond belief due to this bad arrangement.

Serious consideration needs to happen for a full merger of all public safety departments in the county into one organization, including police, EMS and fire departments. The City & County should merge into one municipality - it would increase our ranking nationally, and result in additional federal funding.

The City of Cincinnati Police, Hamilton Co. Sheriffs Dept. and all smaller agencies should combine into a metro police dept to save money. The city and the county should also combine services.

Everyone should work to weather or not they are on welfare. Welfare should be a temporary fund, just like unemployment. There should be a cap of how many children you can claim on welfare.

The County made promises to us in exchange for new taxes. No more boondoggles like the jail, The Banks, or any rail until you get your fiscal house in order.

I support a county driven light rail line connecting major hubs in throughout the entire county.

The county needs to look into consolidation of more services such as police, fire and parks. It is an absolute waste of tax dollars for each jurisdiction and the county (except fire) to provide all of these services. Additionally, I am not sure the extent of it, but county and cities should not be leasing any office space, they should own where they have offices. I am not sure if it is legal, but the County should consider opening "bars" before/after sporting events downtown to generate revenue that can be used for the stadium funds. I think it is unfair Hamilton County residents are being forced to foot the bill for venues that attract 1000's of out of county visitors.

We need government that is not necessarily smaller but is more effective.

Hamilton County needs to look more realistically at the long-term to find ways to keep a solvent, sustainable budget. This will be done by smart investments in public transportation and other job-creation projects, consolidating and/or cutting government positions and offices, and pursuing a better, more efficient, less complicated, and more effective tax and revenue system. Instead of focusing so much on the "here and now," and worrying about what you can do in the next 1-2 years to get reelected, look to the future.

I do not support the streetcar initiative. Poor investment. For a better return work with states to build commuter trains from Fields Ertle to downtown and from Erlanger to downtown.

Find ways to charge the Bengals and the Reds more for their use of the Stadium.

Also tax non-Hamilton County residents more for Bengals/Reds tickets.

Property taxes should be cut.

If the budgets to the entitlement programs were slashed, there would be plenty of money. Stop the handouts to able-bodied folks and crime would decrease.

The survey did not give participants the chance to tell county government to eliminate some of the programs that they have/will propose. I still feel that money is wasted on way too many projects that have government has no business funding.

I commend the County on their hard work and effort as I know their job is not an easy one, in whatever sector of the County they work in. Tough times call for tough solutions.

The county and the city need to start integrating processes and services to make sure that duplicate services are reduced and funding goes to services and people rather than maintaining political boundaries. Our economy and development potential are suffering due to job drain and movement of companies outside the area due to taxes and the inability to get things done due to duplication and divergent rules. Some of the money should be set aside to look at consolidation of services to save money. LIKE Police; fire; building regulation and codes; regional tax collection; and other regional efforts like the 911 ; planning

It's embarrassing the county commissions can't figure out how to pay for the county stadium tax deficit. They need to realize multiple sources are required. They all want to look at the problem with tunnel vision, using they "chosen" methods and obviously don't understand the magnitude of the problem. Then they let the deadline go by for a sales tax increase to be part of the solution - embarrassing. I can't believe a county official suggested an employee raise when a major county deficit issue is still unresolved. It should be noted in his evaluation that he doesn't understand what a balanced budget is.

Some of the questions had answer options that appear to have political overtones, such as protecting jobs, levies, private sector revenue. This is about a budget of Dollars. The overriding goal is to provide the services needed to the community of people in the most efficient and cost effective manner. Solutions have to have that in mind and have the flexibility to make modifications as events develop or change.

no new taxes for the stadium - get the cash from the teams & peopel who use it

There's too much overlap with the City of Cincinnati and Hamilton County governments. Overlap translates into excessive costs. Excessive costs means inefficiency. Become more efficient! Lower our taxes and use what you get more effeciently by combining services and even governments. Look at Louisville's structure.

It's well known that laws need to be changed to be consistent with the times, checks and balances need to be stronger within government, the city and county must merge similar functions to be cost-effective while keeping service levels high and employee morale as high as can be.

I do not support: the 3 C high speed rail or the Cincinnati trolley

Taxes on the citizens of the U.S. will have to go up in the near future due to the amazing and dis-hartening increase in spending at the federal level. Please don't increase our taxes at the local level also. We just can't afford it. My family doesn't live an extravagant life, through belt tightening and financial responsibility, we continue to get by. Unfortunately, we are going to be the target of the next increase in taxes. If our local taxes increase along with our federal taxes, I'm not sure we will be able to continue to make ends meet. Thank you.

Where is the survey question regarding our opinion on consolidating city and county government into one entity? There is a ridiculous amount of waste here in both teh city and county government, consolidating your governement with the cities would save money, reduce the red tape (and hopefully the fighting between both governments....remember the Banks?) and provide the citizens of this region a more stremlined approach to policy.

The Street Car issue is silly. The commuting public wouod be far greater benfitted by better East West corridor improvements than by adding a street car. Money should be spent in the city core so that there is a safe destination for businesses and tourism to grow from. Spreading dollars around the city in the form of a street car is a waste of valuable space and cause of traffic congestion.

None of the options for a 911 call center make sense. If there is one call center managed by one group of people you will save money! This sounds like people adn government are protecting their positions. That is Bull. We had to layoff half of our staff. The city should be forced to follow the same.

I never understood why our property taxes are used to pay for stadiums....This is ridiculous. I propose that stadiums are paid for by the team franchises. If nothing else we should sell the stadium to a pricvate company that could use the venue for other events, and make it profitable.

Again Streetcar BAD idea! Listen to the public, work on a bike trail, or running path can the street car.

The county needs to do a better job in engaging the public, providing better accessibility and transparency to the budgetary issues it faces. Investing in our schools should be of paramount importance.

I feel we are overspending due to duplication of services. We need a consolidated area government like Louisville. We also need to stop doing things that require federal dollars, they are just contributing to a bigger deficit.

A train that doesn't get people into the city center is a waste and will not be used near as much--combine it with regional/commuter light rail, etc. Legalize (or at least decriminalize) marijuana to save money and reduce jail costs, etc. Consolidate as many services as possible with the city. And charge the people who can afford to go to games for the reds/bengals stadiums.

Please PLEASE revisit the panhandling issue. I live downtown, and visit many other large metro cities for work, and Cincy by far has the worst presence of panhandlers and loiterers. The advocacy groups, while helping give these folks rights, also creates an environment with little responsibility while encouraging more homeless to roam the streets for handouts.

I am totally dumbfounded how we can spend so much money on gov't pensions, trolley cars, building and tearing down skywalks, a revamp of fountain square that is nothing more than a maze of handrails and a sell out of space to an ice rink and a restaurant, sending huge delegations to other states for Best of Practice ideas, etc., and not have enough money to operate jails and provide health care programs. I really don't think we've got the brightest of the bright leading this city. Cincinnati always operates under a short term band aid approach -- do we understand the benefit of long term planning at all?

Government should stay out of the health care. I don't think the tax payers should have built the stadiums for the Reds or the Bengals and we damn sure shouldn't have to continue with the upkeep. They make Millions in those stadiums and it is time they give back. Force Mike Brown to put together a winning team (he make money even when they suck as they have for the last decade) or tell him to get the hell out of our city. The rail car idea is the dumbest thing I have heard in a long time. That is not going to bring people downtown!! If you want people to come downtown, the fix the parking issues and the crime. I refuse to pay to park to go window shopping. Paying \$20+ to park for a ball game is absurd!!! You already get Robbed at the concessions! Keep the elected officials as single elected officials. It is too easy to get a bunch of criminals in place if they aren't elected. IF they filed bankruptcy they have NO BUSINESS being in government!!! if they can't take care of their own money I don't want them spending mine!!!

As far as the debt on the 'public' sports stadiums in Cincinnati...JUST PUT A SEAT TAX on each ticket!!! The Bengals, UC, and XU all add 'franchise fees' to the face value of their tickets. Then those who use the facilities pay for them.

Fire the entire building department. Re-hire only those employees who can demonstrate valued service to the citizens of Hamilton County and those who must apply for permits in the county. Remove the petty minded individuals from the top down who seem to do their level best to lengthen the permit and inspection process rather than use a reasonable amount of common sense in effort to keep construction moving in the county rather than moving construction out of the county. Conduct a identity protected (to limit the continuing revenge of the building department) exit audit of those using the system to determine customer confidence. This should be overseen by a private firm, not under the employ of the county.

Legalization of marijuana should be considered however crimes that occur due to use of drugs should be treated with the same policies of alcohol. For instance, if you kill someone with your car while under the influence of drugs it should be treated just as driving drunk is treated.

Please charge more to the sports teams that use the stadiums. Many tax payors do not even use the stadiums to attend sports events. The sports teams are for-profit organizations and should not have tax payer support!

I believe public transit is the most efficient way to instigate development in our urban core and uptown communities. It must be easier, and more aesthetically pleasing to shop, eat, and be entertained in the urban core and surrounding uptown communities of the Cincinnati area, than it is to shop, eat, and be entertained in suburban areas. Our lack of public transit and a thriving, edgy downtown has caused me and many others to leave this city. (I have not left yet, I will be moving to Chicago in August)

No taxes to indigent healthcare. Obama will take care of their needs.

Close the swimming pools

Move towards more consolidation of services with the City of Cincinnati

County should foster alternative transportation and energy usage..bicycle use, development of wind and solar power and industries which design/produce/install these equipments should be given concessions

This format asks for simple answers to complicated questions, therefore it is at times impossible to provide an informed answer. Here are some of my thoughts.

1. There should be no new revenue requests until after the county reform task force completes its work and some sort of reform is taken to the voters. I firmly believe that a form that utilizes a county executive with appointed department heads (excepting the prosecutor) will save a great deal of money.

2. all jurisdictions using county sheriff's patrol should be required to pay the full costs of the service; the only exceptions perhaps being those that are in financial crisis.

3. Light rail should be the focus of the county rail initiatives, but the Eastern Corridor project should be approached with suspicion...its long-term effect being more bleed off from the core and greater economic development in Clermont County

Cincinnati's proposal for street car system is a complete waste of taxpayer funds

With the loss of family population in the County, it is imperative that taxes not be raised. Services must be consolidated in some manner to provide property tax relief for current constituents.

I answered "none of the above" to several questions. I hope folks are still considering other options than those presented. I feel out of touch, since I don't have alternatives to present at this point myself.

It is an awful time to be considering tax increases. Your constituents are having to do with less. I hope that the leadership considers this to be an opportunity to be creative.

Most of your questions assume the option answers are acceptable. Where did they come from? The property tax question for example doesn't even take into consideration the the Ohio Supreme Court has ruled that funding schools through property taxes is illegal. Take that out and it changes the whole structure of property taxes.

I truly think the Commissioners need to stop promising monies to special interest groups just to keep popular with them. There are serious drawbacks to this. I think they need to stop acting political when it comes to the use of tax dollars and act with more integrity and an eye towards the future.

Stadiums/Indigent Care: Please do not cut indigent care in favor of the stadium debt. Concessions from the Reds & Bengals (more rent, other stadium events, ticket/parking/concession taxes, etc) must be made as well as tax increases on citizens to make up the difference. In terms of tax increases, I favor reducing or eliminating the property tax rollback and then increasing the sales tax rate as needed to whatever it takes to payoff the debt and not default or file for bankruptcy. I do not favor just increasing the sales tax rate alone.

3C Rail: I favor a Cincinnati station, but not a Sharonville station, at least initially. Travel time will be a factor in the train's early success and having an extra stop on the route won't help. I don't care where you put the Cincinnati station as long as it has direct or streetcar/light rail access to downtown. Remember, people won't have automobiles when they get off the train.

Exit any obligations to Bengals ASAP.

The citizens of Hamilton county do not want lightrail.

But like most things, I expect elected leaders to ignore the will of the populace.

When looking at rail transportation, the West Side should also be considered.

You need to state the benefits for some of the proposed changes. For example what is the benefit of changing the voting option? Dollars, reduction in taxes, participation etc.

JUST STOP! STOP SPENDING. CUT SPENDING. CUT TAXES. OPPOSE THE L;MARXISTS WHO RUN OUR FEDERAL GOVERNMENT. PROMOTE LIBERTY AND FREE MARKETS AND BUSINESS GROWTH. DISAGREE? THEN Q-U-I-T AND GET THE HELL OUT OF THE WAY.

Mass transit is the key to accelerating this region into a world-class metro.

Not a fan of the city. Been here 5 years since Katrina and have not been impressed. Leaving at the end of the year and never coming back.

These multiple choice questions suggest that there are easy solutions. The answers also often have presuppositions that imply the questions reflect statements that are correct. I tend to think that these presuppositions are false.

Here are some specific points for consideration. An increase in taxes for 5 to 10 years is too long. That question indicated that the stadium teams would do their part in this budget crisis. It won't be enough. I am upset that we have purchased stadiums for them. Besides the teams paying some of the costs, these stadiums should be opened up for college and high school sporting events (perhaps other events).

The train station question implied that a train between the major cities of Ohio would be a good idea. I doubt it. In addition to having too few riders, I believe the train will be too slow. Plus, I doubt that mass transit will be available once you get to your destination. As a result people won't ride the train.

In general, do whatever you can to keep costs down because economic conditions may not improve dramatically for several years. Taking "free" federal money for capital improvements that create higher operating costs is a bad idea.

Why are you considering a new rail system to Cleveland when the one we have, Amtrak, takes 28.5 hours to get to Cleveland! Give me a break.

CUT OPERATING BUDGET %25 FROM \$201 MILLION TO 158 MILLION

We have to stop the spending of public funds. These funds are starting to dry up and it will be kust a few more years till more and deeper cuts will be necessary. The economy might get better but income will never be what it was a few years ago.

The Healthcare levy shouldn't be reduced to finance playgrounds for the rich.

Tax people who use various services, i.e. ticket tax to support the stadiums instead of a property tax, increase fares on public transportation rather than raising taxes to support it, etc. Property owners can bear no more of the burden. No sales taxes either. I make most of my taxable purchases outside of Hamilton County, just so my tax dollars will not support the stupid stadium. I can't believe no one ever looked into how Bedinghaus came to work for the Bengals just a few weeks after voters ousted him -- there had to have been something funky going on there.

Quit wasting money. People need to take personal responsibility if they don't let them suffer the consequences.

Why does the county hire (and often over pay) employees that are not residents of the county, and often not the state. This takes a lot of jobs away from our County residents. It doesn't seem fair.

Jails- time to reconsider putting inmates to work on city projects, painting, clean up projects, pot hole repair work, etc etc-

I believe that the city leadership is only pushing forward on personal agenda issues and does not have the people's needs in mind. People need jobs, not more levies or taxes. Cincinnati should make it easier for a company to expand or open a location in areas such as Camp Washington where there are dozens of empty manufacturing facilities. The city and county make it more difficult so it does not happen.

The county must find a way to make the people who use the stadiums pay for the shortfall.

The County Commissioners back then made a hell of a mess for the rest of us to clean up...Hamilton County could not afford them then, and obviously now.

Look at all persons of interest. A person with a family can't shop downtown. Spread the wealth to downtown around, where people from all walks of life may shop and enjoy.

Look at a way to keep society safe. Encourage the current worker to do their best in current positions with hope for the future.

The county worker don't shop downtown, because of location to business and shops.

There is low morale. No raises in 6yrs. Workers really don't care anymore. I talk with plenty of persons; that don't care about this city, its economical growth because of not benefiting from it.

Crime is awful, safety is an issue. Repeat offenders don't care about offending because they know there is no punishment waiting.

County and City appear not to work together.

Lets start over; city and county work together, everyone should know there job.

Hey, what about crime...ask a probation officer

See a benefit for everyone...not just the wealthy.

I think we need to curb spending until the current economic crisis has passed. No new projects at all, including the streetcar plans. Even with Federal funding we still must pay for part of the plans. We just can't afford it! We've all been taxed enough and, like me, some have been unemployed for a few years now and, as much as we'd like to, we can't afford any new taxes.

I'm not pleased with the way the health care question was phrased. It is leading. Health care reform is to be phased in over several years and is not intended to take care of ALL public health issues even when fully implemented.

Hamilton county should declare bankruptcy and get out of the stadium contracts with the Bengals and Reds. Quit spending the counties money on ridiculous projects such as the rail system between Cinti and Cleveland. Hamilton county should avoid doing anything with the City of Cincinnati until Cincinnati elects a half way smart city council, they are not even close at this point. The Freedom center should be used for something, shut down the museum and utilize the building.

We could save money by reducing duplication of services and having more integrated city and county services-too many townships

Consolidation should be considered for every duplicate service in the city and county. The city should be accountable for wasting scarce county resources e.g. only the city marijuana law results in arrests.

if i remember right taxes can be raised 1 or 2% without voter approval if we need a jail raise the tax & build one

I think the stadiums tax is not fair to the citizens of Hamilton County. I think the developers should look at Newport on the Levy and get a clue, downtown Cincinnati is so far behind it isn't funny. The non smoking policy has killed a lot of business and in the long run has cut off a large portion of revenue for the city. This law needs to be repealed and keep the government out of peoples life choices. As for the streetcar idea, that is also a joke I would not use it to go to a crime ridden city that is scary. Now onto the jail issue I think it is about time that we get a NEW sheriff in office that is not old and senile, make one large jail that can be large enough and used by 3 or 4 adjoining counties and pool all the counties funds together, a MEGA jail it would create jobs and use the smaller jails like the Justice center as satellite jails. If I go to casino I go to Indiana (as I can smoke) if I go to nice bar or restaurant I go to Kentucky (as I can smoke) I am sure that I am not the only hard working, tax paying citizen with these views. Thank You

Concerning Health Care and the alarming rates of infant mortality, diabetes, etc., we need to recognize that often federal subsidies drive the cost down for junk foods and promote unhealthy lifestyles. Some how, we need to look for creative ways to promote healthier lifestyles that are incentivized rather than de-incentivized.

Additionally, concerning development issues, we need to look more seriously at preservation of the land and our water resources. Low impact (40%+ greenspace) and LEED development should be incentivized in the planning process. Protection, restoration and promotion of our water resources as a priority will help to provide safety and can serve as a selling point for those who may be considering relocating to the Cincinnati and Hamilton County area.

I think the count should try and consolidate more services from the duplication of services. Fire, Police, Road Maint and Parks

All issues must consider the long range costs and benefits. There is no logic in spending money we don't have. Any new policies however noble will only weaken our overburdened economy. New programs will require cuts in existing ones to fund new ones. Prioritize wisely or we will end up with nothing.

Start thinking about a metro form of government. Combine all county police and fire departments.

I want the County to apply for HUD and EPA funding to make homes lead safe, like the city.

We're being strangled by taxes. The County property tax assesment is out of control. The County maintains that my home is worth more than my appraisal I obtained for refinancing. I submitted the paper work to lower my tax assesment with the professional appraisal and the county ignored it. The County did not inspect my home and appraise it the way the professional appraiser did, yet they know more. This is called theft, arrogance, hubris, and elected officials begging to be thrown out of public office. I'm am MAD. All of my neighbors are MAD. How much MADDER does the County plan to make the citizens of this County before people revolt?

no more taxes. let the levies die off. I know it is difficult but use the current funds better-solve someof the funded problems and use that money to help reduce other programs. Less not more of my moneysould be used for these programs.RESOLVE the issues instead of looking for ways to make them larger.

I don't think our tax money should go toward the stadiums. It should go to something more important like schools. My town school actually had to lay off workers and make pay cuts. Our tax money should help these small town schools who don't get a lot of money!!!

cut the operating budget %26 from 210 million to 150 million, Lower Property taxes and lower sales tax are taxes are too high!!!! no more taxes

consolidate all 49 jurisdiction in to one county government, consolidate all police forces. make Bengals and Reds raise ticket price to pay for stadium. raise Bengals ticket \$ 35 dollars and reds tickets 4 per ticket or put tax tickets. if that happen then cut operating budget to pay for stadium fund

I understand that Hamilton County's budget is at strain. However, county employees havn't received a raise in over 3 years. I feel the county as a whole are loosing and will continue loose valuable employees. Consequently, will have a negative impact on services throughout the county it serves.

More income for lower level county employees and hiring of lower level employees and consolidation of upper level management in order to accomplish this. With county departments being reduced across the board, perhaps the county should look at a reduction of administration positions and combine those departments under the county administrator. Mid-level management can take care of day-to-day business. That is a 6 figure savings that could help struggling departments. As for making medical affordable for county residents you need to practice that with county employees as well. Thanks.

I firmly oppose any further funds to pay for the sports stadiums downtown. I believe that the commercial enterprises that benefit from the them (the Reds and the Bengals) should be forced to fully pay for their own facilities, like any other commercial enterprise.

Landbanking is a viable way to create regional development and targeted growth. The county should take advantage of newly enacted laws and use this opportunity as a planning tool for the future

Please generate sensible policy adjustments to the tax, health care, jail crowding, and other issues in Hamilton county. Please think of the greatest good you can do for all people in HAMCO.Don't play party politics with these issues-we don't need games! we need results. Thanks.

I think that the county needs to make more investments in mass rapid transit and less investments in highways and parking. I'm also in favor of reducing the insanely bloated public safety budget to fund more important needs like education, healthcare, and transit.

too often survey choices force a limited predesigned channel; as with CCC rail & location. Unless it's dirt cheap to use who on earth would take this?

Consolidate City/County collective. Bigger Govt can be better Govt. Of the Zoo/levy-beware the Zoo is using Hamil.Co. Tax money to build a newer/other Zoo in Warren Co. End war on drugs/ criminalization & a big chunk of budget issue is resolved. Cincin/Hamilton Co./Ohio are all in very very bad shape. All options are limited.

Why do the county commissioners have the right to vote down a raise for HCJFS workers (since we are predominately funded by the state-- not the county's general fund)?

Public Transportation will be increasingly important as the city grows and connects with Dayton. Consider connecting SORTA routes to Dayton. Also, SORTA could benefit from more than one hub, commuters from mason don't want to go downtown to catch a bus to go north to evandale. Please support light rail (not streetcar) that can move people from the suburbs where they actually live. Also, with my apologies to scenic indian hill, connecting the city from east to west (via cross county hwy and light rail lines) would open up another 1/2 of the city for development.

1. The size of government must be reduced. This means spending less and taxing less. Let the free market spend its money on economic development and growth.

2. Force the sports stadiums and/or attendees to pay for their own venues.

3. Get tough on criminals.

I am against rail travel unless it will get the most bang for the buck. It should not look to the government to subsidize the cost. If it can't be done with money raised from the operation of any rail system project, it shouldn't be undertaken period.

Hamilton County needs to take control of MSD back from the City of Cincinnati and regionalize other services

Too many of the questions asked in this survey require additional information in order to make an informed decision. Without such information, the responses to the questions may not be valid or have "unintended" consequences as the populace may not understand all of the pros/cons.

Was not aware that I could attend a Budget Planning meeting, never notified or aware of date or time of such meeting. In the future would like to know of such meeting so I can provide input. Perhaps you can utilize email to notify the public of the meetings. Also, so of the question in this survey you should have offered a other comment section because I may not have totally agreed with the answer but I also would have added some suggestions example, regarding the sales tax and the stadium issue. Overall Good Survey.

Wow, more of these surveys before ballot voting when it is official, mistakes made, more money wasted correcting and on and on until nothing gets done.

With the current economic crisis, and so many people being out of work, any attempt to raise taxes is outstandingly wrong.

As an eastside-to-downtown commuter, I am very excited about the prospect of streetcar lines and the 3-C rail project. Please continue to support this at the County level!

I am not afraid to vote for higher taxes for the good of our residents.

Build trains!!!

Unified County and city government is a must. There is too much waste and duplication. Stop the fighting between the county and the city.

Cronyism in the court system is rampant and damaging to employees hired in the legal, qualified sense. This should be brought to the attention of county administrators and the public.

Sharonville should be a stop on the light rail system. Raising taxes is not smart now until economy improves.

Growth, growth, growth. Forget about the naysayers and the people that will be opposed to anything you propose and push forward with the current renaissance that Cincinnati is enjoying.

Legalize Marijuana and focus on hard drugs like Meth, etc... The time has come and it could provide a ton of revenue for the county/city. It would provide a tourism boom also--don't discount that.

If the Bengals are unwilling raise ticket price to pay for the stadium fund then cut operating budget 52 million to pay for stadium fund. No raise taxes or, no taking property rebates back and or stealing health levy funds for poor people to pay for stadium. cut operating budget 52 million. no new taxes

I had a child at home on April 6th 2010. When this happened I went to hospital and upon being released I was unable to get birth certificate. I was told to contact Hamilton county birth records. I had to send notarized letters from emts stating they witnessed this event, that probably took a month to be completed. My problem is I went down to the office on William Howard Taft 5 times now to sign the papers so they can be sent to Columbus. The first time I was there I was told in a rude voice, the woman who works on home births is on vacation. I work in customer service so I always speak to people with respect. I went down the week the woman was suppose to be back and that day she had left early. I went down there 3 times since and she is never there and seems to be the only person who can give the papers to sign. I called today before making my way down there and was told she won't be in the office till Tues. As you can imagine I am very angry with the county and would like something done about this situation. Please contact me back at [REDACTED], to inform me who I should contact about this matter. Thank you so much. [REDACTED]

1. None of the locations you provided would be convenient. I would have the meeting in Norwood where everyone county can get to it within 15 min.

2. What is going on with Drake Center? Why am I hearing that a hospital that we spend millions to build is being sold by the Health All. for a profit to a "For profit Medical group". What ever happened to providing medical care in the County from cradle to grave with the "Childrens, UC, Drake" tax supported Hospitals. You talk about Jail space. A lot of programs were run at Drake including weekend incarceration for DUI. You need to do better with the resources you have instead of wasting our tax dollars on pet projects then crying that you don't have enough money.

Forget the streetcars. Our bus service is not used to it's capacity.

fire the reform committee and send Portune packing

A lot of these questions are confusing to the common person and in my opinion require substantial background knowledge before a truly educated guess. I am most proficient with the rail station issue. You should specify that what I presume you are asking for is a temporary station location. The final station without question should be immediately in or around downtown Cincinnati.

Passenger rail should be located at Union Terminal as soon as possible. It's the only way to connect to Chicago service and future Kentucky service. Forget Fairfax. Nothing there.

The "transfer" station is a bad idea for the 3C train. When passengers are forced to change trains or modes to reach their final destinations, they frequently just drive their car. The temporary 3C station should be downtown at Sawyer point.

Health Cost Concerns would be best served by supporting the Single Payer Health Coverage proposed by SPANOIO.org which has a Bill before the State Legislature and they need prodding to move. Ohio could set the best possible precedent for all states and the Fed Govt by implementing this proposal and proving its worthiness. Jobs would be created, Corporate Costs Reduced, and the synergy would positively effect all areas of our economy, rather than provide profits for Insurance Cos.

Hamilton county needs to start planning Metro-type government and services to be completed by 2035!

It's proven fact this is only way to solve myriad of complicated issuses which confront Cincinnati vs. Hamilton County now and definitely for foreseeable future!

We have got to put that temporary rail station close to downtown for incoming travellers, and work like the devil to get a permanent one in the downtown for business people and tourists.

cut budget to pay for for stadium fund

I believe that public transportation is an issue of utmost importance to the county and should be giving a high priority in long-range planning.

I'm most interested in alternative transportation modes (public transportation and bike paths), and would like to see more support for this. Advantages - public transportation lowers obesity rates and reduces chronic health problems, moving away from fossil fuels helps the environment, and metropolitan areas with extensive public transportation / walking/biking trails tend to be more prosperous.

Sheriff's patrols: The Ohio State Highway Patrol patrols Interstate and Ohio State highways. The Sheriff's office should coordinate with the OSHP and local police departments to provide coverage on certain roads regardless of jurisdiction. I'm distinguishing between road patrols, which are to ticket errant drivers, and patrols designed to detect break ins and similar crimes. Patrols for break ins should be reimbursed. By the way, when I lived in Sycamore Township, the Sheriff's department provided us with excellent service, which I believe was at least partly paid for by the Township.

I support having the 3C trains terminate at Union Terminal which cannot be quickly done. Until that is possible I support having the station at Sharonville.

The 3 C rail project needs to have a temporary terminus in Sharonville till a permanent DOWNTON station is constructed/revitalized. I prefer the Riverfront Transit Center as a transfer point for traditional rail (3C/Amtrak's Cardinal or future trains) and commuter rail to the east and west (or north?) sides. Connection tracks should be built to connect the Transit Center to CSX's existing passenger route. While Union Terminal is a great historic site, I feel it's too far from the downtown core to be viable. DO NOT waste time and money on a Fairfax or Bond Hill station location - use a temporary terminus at the future suburban Sharonville sation till the downtown spot is built!!!

A permanent 3C train station needs to be in or near downtown Cincinnati. A temporary station, if necessary, should be built-in in line with accessing

downtown (such as in Sharonville) - not to service the Eastern Corridor

cut operating budget to pay for stadium fund all three ideas are wrong cut budget suck it up. no more taxes and no steeling levys for poor people met for health care that why i voted the levy in to pay for a stadium

many responses were "loaded" and biased. Ex. rail should be integrated with ALL transit, not just Cincinnati, not just Eastern Corridor. ALL transit should connect across cities and counties.
I would have preferred a survey format that incorporates the ability to click a link and get additional information on the pro's/con's of each option and/or info on other areas that have successfully/unsuccessfully adopted the options being presented
Develop and fund public transportation.
Want to see the County support all forms of rail (trains, light commuter and streetcars). Also want to see the County encourage bicycling as a safe form of transportation by developing a comprehensive bicycle infrastructure including (but not limited to) bike lanes, sharrows and trails.
I think it's great to see the county getting input from the citizens!
We need better public transportation in Hamilton County, including better bus service and light rail.
thx for asking our opinions.
thanks
Taxes need to be equitably levied across all facets of the Hamilton County community. Every individual and business need to pay their appropriate and fair share since virtually all businesses and individuals avail themselves of county services.
Don't sell Cincinnati Water Works! Keep it a public utility.
Specific county offices require an in-depth audit conducted by the Ohio Auditor's staff. The Sheriff and the Prosecutor have unlimited spending authority and frequently use monies purposes for which they were otherwise intended. A line-by-line review by the county budget office is in order prior to the finalization of the 2011 budget.
Audit the Sheriff.....funds are hidden in outside accounts
"Super precincts" need to be placed where people without private transportation can get to them.
We need to find a way to rehab and utilize all of the run down buildings in Cincinnati, especially in OTR. Create mixed income housing. Make it so people currently living in the area can afford to stay there, continue with their life, in a much more beautified, safe, clean, and friendly environment. Thank you.
Union Terminal should be the terminus for any high speed rail connections.
It might have been worthwhile to ask for comments about MSD's challenges.
Solving the serious budget problem caused by the stadium deal will take real pain. Although I personally believe that the deal was irresponsible from the beginning, given the fact that we agreed to it, we must do what is necessary to meet the obligation. This will mean serious service cutbacks (e.g., although I disagree with the focus of Commission Hartman proposal on indigent care, at least it is a serious proposal) and it MUST include a tax increase. It is intellectually dishonest and politically duplicitous to pretend that we can never raise taxes, even to pay for legal obligations.
The most pressing issue facing us is global warming. I want to see mass transportation, bike paths, more green space, emphasis on neighborhood walk-to retail rather than shopping malls, etc.

I am strongly opposed to designating any more tax dollars to keep the stadiums open. Let the Bengals and Reds pay the deficits. I can't afford to attend a game anymore due to high ticket prices, yet still have to support the stadiums while players and management make millions? I am also opposed to the streetcar/train proposal. If a business wants to set up a train, let them, but not with tax dollars.
I think that we should stop funding the stadiums for the Reds and Bengals-they generate enough revenue themselves to take care of them. That money could be used for important public issues addressed by this survey.
Several questions involved new or increased tax levies. While I am not anti-tax and generally vote for needed monies, we are now paying over \$6000/year on a house we purchased originally for \$29,000. We are retired, and the tax burden is becoming oppressive. When it comes to meeting stadium obligations, we feel a tax/surcharge on each game ticket sold would be a better way to pay for debt obligations than a sales tax or any other type of tax levy. We voted for the stadium sales tax originally, sold on the idea that we needed the stadium, a venue we never visit.
Stadium tax should be added to ticket purchase prices
more help is needed to counteract the greed of politicians and investors
Try to eliminate the duplication of services among multiple providers that have no transparency and accountability.
The plan to have an eastern corridor connection to Columbia Parkway is now a dead issue because of land use changes in the Newtown area where the golf course had been.
Let the stadium go bankrupt!
I am concerned about the number of Hamilton County employees who have political patronage jobs. Many are unqualified for their positions. Taxpayers should not have to pay for this.
The main station for all passenger trains and light rail should be Union Terminal as quickly as this can be accomplished.
Our most pressing issue is jail overcrowding. Potential arrest is not a deterrent to criminals in the existing system, because they will serve little or no jail time. In order to reduce criminal activity, there MUST be consequences.
Consolidate services among the county jurisdictions as well as with the City. Get the Courts spending under control through mandated efficiencies as other counties in Ohio have done.
Texting while driving should be made illegal.
Metro government or uni-gov makes the most sense in the long run, with all decisions made at the appropriate level - local, area wide, county wide.
Hamilton County employees deserve a raise. They have families and are working. We keep giving handouts to non working people and talking about economic impact. These people were promised and deserve a raise. Quit giving money to public programs and giving handouts to addicts, helping people on probation get jobs and give county employees a raise. You are a disgrace to the employees that work for you.
Put 3C at Union Terminal!!

No train system from cincy to cleveland, that's ridiculous

Many citizens are out of work or have not received salary increases for years. It is my hope that taxes are not increased at this time. We need to look at reducing spending where it can be reduced. We need to also look carefully at new projects, it is not the time to start with new projects that the county and the citizens of the county can not afford.

Where they overlap, Hamilton County and the City of Cincinnati should consolidate services to avoid redundancies (i.e. police). There are also way too many issues where the county and the city don't agree which stifles innovation and strategic thinking. Too many hidden agendas exist in the current system and a more regional mentality needs to be encouraged IMMEDIATELY. We're losing too many young entrepreneurs and cutting off new business activities because of the archaic way our region is run. Get over yourselves and start doing the right thing for the city and the county. You're still living in the the 1960's and this form of government doesn't work....the rest of the country is passing us by and capitalizing on opportunities that should be ours. And please, start curtailing the uncontrolled power that Simon Leis and his cronies have. There's no credibility when that 'old boy's network' exists in this day and age.

the county needs examine it's budget

cut the Hamilton county Budget to pay for stadium Fund. stuck it up take responsible for the agreement that the county signed with both teams.

The answer that I would like to have for 3C rail is that the stop should be in the Riverfront Transit Center. The Bortz family should not be the only voice our county has for location. The Transit Center make the most sense because it will like to the streetcar, Metro bus system, and is in easy walking distance to downtown and the stadiums.

Connecting the train system to Downtown is crucial and a no-brainer. This is the largest employment center in the county. The station should not be in Lunken or Sharonville or it will not be used!

If it is decided to spend the "unspent" dollars from the indigent care levy, that funding should be given to organizations that provide health care services to the indigent population. Not for capital projects and not for organizations like Closing the Health Gap that does not provide any direct health care services.

No more money to the Bengals and Reds. Declare Ch 9 bankruptcy to get out of the Bedinghaus lease scam. Forget about the wasteful 3C project. Not a dime should be spent on that. Refuse to lock up people for 1st-time marijuana usage and reduce or eliminate the federal prisoners.

Government needs checks and balances. The issues with the City of Cincinnati council is that there is nobody preventing the council from pursuing their private interest to the detriment of the people that they server. Please do not make the same mistake.

Most of these are above my head and I don't know enough to really provide educated responses.

CUT SPENDING LIKE EVERY FAMILY AND BUSINESS

I am so worried about the issue of losing police force to afford a street car. I really don't understand why success of street car cannot be tested out using a rented metro bus first.

Although no one can predict the economy, I am deeply disappointed in the result of the "stadium" projects. It appears that the "professionals" who are paid a very good amount of money - were clueless about the real cost of the Bengals Stadium etc. We have been subsidizing Paul Brown and Company for too long. It is very frustrating that I have to cut back because of the ever increasing taxes to live in Hamilton County. Just my 2 cents worth.....

I do not support the public rail system, we will not be able to support it after it is built

It is incumbent upon the county to dig itself out of the stadium mess. The current situation amounts to corporate welfare and I am not in favor of tax dollars being allocated to fund a for-profit business. Let's get creative and find a solution to this mess.

At the same time, in many ways Hamilton County and the City of Cincinnati seem to be redundant and there are ample opportunities to consolidate services that will result in significant cost savings and efficiencies. Steps need to be taken now to merge into one legal entity similar to Miami-Dade County.

A sales tax seems like a no-brainer for all our budget woes.

It seems to me that the Bengals and Reds' ticket holder are not paying their fair share of the revenue short fall. Increase the ticket price so that the users--the direct beneficiaries--of the facilities make up the short fall.

Thank you for asking for my input. I don't remember being asked in the past.

Need more bicycle & pedestrian paths, lanes and facilities, logistically coordinated around public transit.

cut spending now

Streetcars - or at least the ones proposed for Cincinnati - are a waste of money and resources.

I am mortified that a city in such dire financial straights allowed the passage of this useless excuse for transportation. They do nothing to solve the transportation issues facing this city. Nothing.

We need real solutions to transportation issues in this city, like linking the suburbs to the city center (Downtown) through something like light rail. And further, to link Cincinnati to its northern neighbors like Columbus, Cleveland and even Chicago, as proposed.

Cincinnati government reacts. And it makes some of the worst economic decisions I have ever seen, having lived in several medium-to-large cities.

Cincinnati needs to work to re-vitalize its downtown, and focus on making it accessible to the public transportation-wise via mass public transit, pedestrian and bicycle access(ibility), etc.

These are vital to a city's (downtown's) livability.

Cincinnati has to stop punishing (and going back on promises made to) its taxpayers, in order to keep greedy sport franchises in this city.

City officials must stop listening to the cries about crime and the need for more jails/jail space, especially from local elected officials furthering their own agenda.

The taxpayers of this city are over-burdened. Hamilton County does not need another jail or more jail space. It needs to stop jailing minor offenses/offenders, then over-crowding will no longer be an issue.

We have bigger issues to address in order to keep the City of Cincinnati a desirable place to live; one that has the ability to attract businesses and creatives who will strive to further a vibrant, communal, inclusive Cincinnati.

Mr. Portune and Pepper, do not dare to try to raise my taxes again. I know what you have done and tried to do, and am paying attention to what you are doing now.

Cut hamilton County operating budget 60 million in a year to pay for stadium funds or make both teams raise ticket price to pay for stadium fund and let both team out of contract 2027.

Long range goals should be the driving force behind key decisions. Decisions should be made that are transformative, not reactionary. Thank you for including me.

Rail transportation, like the stadiums, will be an underutilized project that has no hope in paying for itself and therefore should be abandoned. As to tax reform, the county needs to work towards reforming property tax laws to revise those properties deemed as farms and are given property tax breaks - if the folks in Indian Hill want massive estates, great - just don't expect to throw a barn, a couple of chickens and a tomato garden and get your property tax rates rolled back. The county also needs to work with state and federal legislators to review and re-work the tax exemption for so called "churches." Any house of "worship" that requires an Inc. or other designation and whose "preacher" drives a car and wears clothing above the majority of his flock is no church - it is a business. As for the healthcare issue, nowhere did your survey say anything about stressing personal responsibility - the county should demand federal healthcare standards being imposed require charging for insurance based on risk factors (obesity, smoking, etc) just as auto insurance charges based on. I am a responsible citizen who takes the time to exercise, watch my caloric intake and avoid the personal risk factors. I keep myself informed about my community, elected officials and I live slightly below my means. I am tired of having to pull the freight for the ill-informed, self indulgent masses who believe the government is to be there for their every need and whim as well as fund every boondoggle project and monetary give-away elected officials feel are needed to get themselves re-elected year after year. The only way we are going to get out of the massive hole we have created for this county, state and country is to 1.) get the control back to the local level and 2.) demand personal accountability for ones action. Anything less dooms ourselves to the massive train wreck we are currently headed for.

cut budget to pay for stadiums funds

think long term, sustainable solutions. Not jus short term fixes and band-aids. Hamilton co my have a new, best idea. Do not he locked into best practices of other places or doing the same thing that has been done in the past.

The county waste's too much money on duplicative services and not enough on law enforcement.

Thanks for the survey. A friend told me about it. Some questions were too broad so I put none of the above. Legalizing drugs...that's a tough one. I might think legalizing possesing pot and applying abuse laws to it (like alcohol), but not all drugs. I don't support having a passenger rail line in either the state or the county - I think it's a waste of funds, inconvenient mode of transportation in this region, not cost effective for the passenger, and will be underutilized. regarding the city trolley: When I was in Chicago they has busses outfitted to look like trolley cars. They met the perceived city need of "nostalgic" transportation, required no other capital other than outfitting the bus and a "trolley" sign (no busting up of concrete), had the versitility to change routes or be eliminated if they were underutilized.

Regarding how to deal with emergency rooms being used for non-emergency cases...I'm not informed enough about the situation to have a reasonable opinion. I've head of ER's that triage and send non-emergency cases to a nearby/in-house clinic.

I hope your do this kind of survey again!

"The Banks" project is a white elephant money pit. Stop it.

Fundementally, the county needs to reduce services and programs to save money and ultimately decrease taxes. This should start with reductions to those programs that do not directly benefit all citizens. The priority funding should go to programs such as parks, roads, safety that truly impact all citizens equally. Furthermore, any redundancies between county, city, state, and federal must be eliminated.

As far as the board of elections. Voters should be able to pick a location to vote that is more convenient, but have to 'pre-register' their location. They shouldn't be able to just show up somewhere on election day.

You need to provide more staff at JFS. It is HORRIBLE there.

Light rail is a waste of tax money when we are laying off people. Washington Park is another waste of money why a parking garage for a park this will just be another place for durgs and other crimes. Make Mike Brown fork over some of his money for the city, since he screwed the tax payers to get his stadium.

Merging the Cincinnati and Hamilton County 911 offices makes sense... make it so

I don't feel I should have to pay health cost for others. Let them get a job like I did.

Thank you for asking these thought provoking and real questions. These are tough decisions that can be stressful... which is why I got out of politics! Enjoy.

sheriff overspending...needs budget oversight and state audit

Hamilton County needs to take a leadership role in making sure that the Metro bus system truly serves all residents of the county and that the system is funded county-wide instead of just by the City of Cincinnati. Hamilton County needs to be more involved in transportation planning for the region - bus, light rail, streetcar, and 3-C line.

Cut operating budget to pay for stadium funds. Cut property taxes to when you buy the house you pay 6% once time when you buy the house. not every year. And when you sells the house then new buyer pays 6% one time until he or she sells the property. Cut sales tax rate .5% to 6% sales tax rate. instead of 6.5 tax rate.

spend less tax dollars instead of building new programs which only further tax the struggling middle class.

Hamilton County needs to look at it's own departments in making cost-saving cuts. As a former Hamilton County employee, when I started the Human Relations Department consisted of one director and 2 secretaries. Now you have a whole battalion of people, some handling "feel-good" programs for county employees that are totally unnecessary. Cuts could be made to many departments that would not effect the operations of the county, but would put some money back in the County's coffers.

County Government, with collaboration of other County Cities and Townships should pursue Gov 2.0 initiatives and increase focus on Economic Development

1) We have far too many resources allocated for committees, planning, talking, arguing, etc., and far too few resources allocated to actual implementation and execution. Stop talking so much and start DOING. 2) The level of argument in our government is unacceptable, from the Federal government to local school boards. Plan your work, yes. But PLEASE WORK YOUR PLANS! 3) Far more collaboration (actual, not another committee) and streamlining of services needs to be done. We do not need 50 different vendors to provide identical services, and that is rampant in this region. That needs to be addressed.

Thank you for the time to read this.

Cut Hamilton County operating budget to pay for stadium fund. no new taxes or stealing other levy to pay for stadium fund. cut Hamilton county budget to pay for stadium funds.

A transfer rail station in Fairfax is a poorly conceived idea and should not be pursued. It will not support additional ridership nor offer the leverage for Eastern corridor commuter rail that has been suggested. Drop the idea and support a locaton that is more centrally located within the region.

The City and County should push to make the Union Terminal the final passenger rail station to take advantage of the current Cardinal train and future Midwest Regional Rail trains. They need to meet at one station. If a temporary station is needed, it should be on the route to Union Terminal so that track can be upgraded for the final station destination.

The 3C Rail Line must have a permanent station downtown, and the temporary station must reasonably access downtown as well. To place either station near the proposed Eastern Corridor Project (that is unlikely to happen) would be a ridiculous waste.

It is imperative for the county to be proactive in looking at ways to consolidate functions, collaborate more effectively with city leaders and really step up to tackle pressing issues to make sure that Cincinnati is a vibrant, affordable, attractive place for businesses and new residents to live, work and play.

The Bengals in particular should pony up, as their current lease is extremely one sided

push ahead with rail in all its forms, it will make this area a destination for growth.

on health care, this is a sticky issue at the moment and it might be best to hang back a couple years and see what changes the reform bill will bring.

As far as the stadium tax issue, I think it makes much sense to add tax to the users via ticket prices. to vendors and advetisers (and others) -- those who benefit from the facilities should bear the burden of the tax shortfall.

No rail system is needed! It will do nothing to promote bringing people to the downtown areas. It's no different than the Metro bus.

The streetcar is the stupidest idea yet put forth in this town. There is NOT A SINGLE THING on the proposed line that I would ever care to visit.

Cut Hamilton County operating budget 30 million to pay stadium fund only opinon that responsibility and cut the operating budget to pay for stadium fund . no new taxes and no robbing health levy that meet for poor people that can't afford health care.

Do not consolidate 911 or other departments with the city. They are extremely inefficient, i.e., city pension issues.

If the city has specific laws above the state, i.e., jaywalking, then they pay for jailing that person.

Re the question of tax revenues to cover stadium costs, you forgot the option of making users of the stadiums pay the costs, in full.

cut operating budget to pay for stadiums . cut sheriff 20 million, cut prosecutor 2.5 million, and cut probation 4 million dollars , cot municipal court 2.5 million and cut replace court reports with video recorders, and consolidate all jurisdiction in to one Hamilton county goverment, one police department. . no Raising taxes or cutting tax rebates or taking other levy to pay for stadiums. pay for the stadium by cut the operating budget. thank you

We need a county-wide system of government.
Some of the issues could have benefited from an "all of the above" answer, especially re: the rail line station.
the city and county need to work and committe to each other stop worrying about who has the power. Think ahead not behind. Baby bomers will need a lot of help in the next 10 -15 years our communities need to develop easy access and saftey for them such as food and entertainment this will tap their spending resource which will help us grow business.
Make the owners of buildings provide saftey. Security fines. This will attacted investors to areas know one willll go to now. " OTR , Brewery District, Findley market"
cut the hamilton county operating budget to pay for stadium.
The transportation station should be at Union Terminal. The backside, so it doesn't interfere wih Museum operation. Freedom Center should be closed on Riverfront and relocated to Museum Center. It is a waste of my taxes in the current location. The riverfront property could be a hotel or restaurant complex that complements The Banks and the stadiums. The real estate is too valuable and attendance too low to continue as is. (Figures are inflated. School attendance is mandatory...some districts are free, others must pay. That means taxpayers pay TWICE) It isn't racist, just common sense.
Transfer Freedom Center to Union Terminal and make building available for anything profitable and job creating.
The ball clubs are the ones who most benefit from the stadiums and should renegotiate their contracts or let the teams leave.
Also, NO MORE PROPERTY TAXES FOR ANYTHING!!!!!!!!!!!!
cut Hamilton county operating budget 60 million to pay for stadium and the deficit for 2011 budget year keep operatin budget 150 million. also I world like to see all 48 jurisdiction consolidate but keep the Hamilton county elected official. cosalidate all police, fire, 911, maintance so on. Have only two police department sheriff and Cincinnati police get rid of 48 small jurisdictions like Fairfax, golf manor, reading, Lockland, so on one Cincinnati police and one county police.
The monies extorted via levies needs to be reigned in. When large groups get to vote in their self-interest, e.g. seniors, the rest of us get screwed. Seniors, for example, have lived long enough they should have saved enough money to take care of themselves. Also, I've never brought any MRDD (or whatever we now chose to call them) children into this world, why should I pay for them?
I found many of the questions misleading and unfair.
Thank you for providing this survey. L.B., College Hill.
Don't waste our money on a trolley!
I applaud this effort to balance our County budget by finding opportunities for efficiency and cost reduction while protecting funds for important development and quality of life projects such as light intrastate tranportation and public health projects.
Taxpayers should not pay for the Bengals stadium beyond what was voted previously. The Bengals must step forward and stop "panhandling" tax payers to pay for their business expense for their venue.

Need to push every avenue possible to get maximum concessions from Bengals and Reds to decrease public tax burden for stadiums.

One change to elections that needs to be made is HOLDING ELECTIONS ON THE WEEKEND. People who work are at a disadvantage when they have to work 8 hours and then stand in a line to vote for another 2, especially when they have a family to take care of.

cut operating budget to pay for stadium funds, not raising taxes. consolidate all 49 jurisdiction to one jurisdictions, cut sheriff budget to pay for stadiums.

I think if the county does not put in serious effort to find a way to house criminals awaiting trial, the City of Cincinnati needs to withdrawal any partnership it has with the county and the Justice Center and find a way to provide its own housing. Having a sheriff who keeps putting these criminals back out on the street to continue to harass their neighborhoods and endanger our youth needs to be required to live in Over the Rhine or Lower Price Hill.

The city / county governance should creatively model responsibility, respect of various point of views, actively seek diversity in regards to community participation, honor our heritage, acknowledge our mistakes and exhibit sincere passion for the people who live here.

Budget meetings should be held in the city of Cheviot. Also, another alternative to help with parking near the jail/courthouse is to build a multi-level parking garage over the county parking lot behind the jail. With the new casino being built, there will NOT be enough parking for county employees.

[REDACTED]

cut the operating budget 26 million to pay for stadiums fund. no new sales taxes. no stealing property levies. suck it up cut operating budget to pay for stadium funds

CUT THE HAMILTON COUNTY OPERATING BUDGET 52 MILLION A YEART TO COVER STADIUM FUNDS UNTIL PAID OFF. DO NOT RAISE SALES TAX, DO NOT CUT PROPERTY ROLL BACK, DO NOT RAISES PROPERTY TAXES. DO NOT TOUCH OTHER LEVIES THAT ARE USE FRO OTHER THING. CUT SALES TAXES AND PROPERTY TAXES. GET RID OF FAMILY SERVICES LEVY, GET RID OF PARKS LEVY, GET RID OF ZOO LEVY, AND GET RID OF MUSEUM LEVY. CUT THE HAMILTON COUNTY OPERATING 52 MILLION TO PAY FOR STADIUM FUNDS.

Consider the concept of uni-gov, combining the city and county governments. It might stop the bickering and accomplish more public good.

We need to start spending our money wisely. The money being spent is the taxpayers not the county commissioners. We can start by eliminating some programs for the minority of our population. People need to start being more accountable for themselves without always having some type of government handout or program given to them. I am tired of my tax dollars only benefiting certain segments of our society. The county needs to try to get the Reds/Bengals to come up with some money to help offset the stadium deficits..there has to be a way to resolve this in court (try again). The Reds/Bengals make to much revenue not to be able to pay for some upkeep or part of the lease. We should have let them both leave. (I personally don't think they would have)

A tax on garbage should be considered as we're evaluating ways to balance our budget.

I think that Hamilton County and City of Cincinnati need to put aside politics and consolidate many services and contracts in order to save tax payers money. There is way too much partisan politics and personal agendas going on, and our leaders are not doing what's best for the citizens of this city and county. The wasteful spending of our tax dollars is unacceptable.

Public health levies should include distribution of funding not just to county agencies but also to municipalities who provide those services.

Bengals and Reds should be part of the solution - taxing on events or concessions in the agreement.

wake up quit wasting tax payers money

We need to address the gentrification of OTR. While it's wonderful that businesses are growing, and people are investing in the area, the availability of moderately priced housing is rapidly diminishing.

re Health levies -- I support the use of indigent care dollars for University and Children's hospitals. More thought should be given to supporting indigent care at non-profit community health centers and at school-based health centers. Without health and education we will not have a skilled labor force. There needs to be accountability and appropriate outcome measures for health care. CDC and HRSA have developed models of care which should be used regardless of funding source. Some of the recreation programs need to be directed to support wellness and activities which will create life time activity.

Jail needs to be used for serious and violent crimes. Simon Leis has people in jail for minor offenses which should ideally suffer in-home incarceration instead to eliminate overcrowding.

Trash is terrible throughout the county. The highways haven't been cut all summer nor have the local streets. Keep Cincinnati Beautiful is trying to get the word out but maybe more news about getting people to clean up the property next to theirs.

Please find some way to get the county out of the disastrous stadium fiasco : it is and always has been a serious abuse of the taxpayer, particularly given that Mike Brown and others are enriching themselves at the expense of those who can't even afford to go to games.

Cut Hamilton county operating budget to pay for the stadiums. guy it to live up the county end of the deal.
Cut operating budget for Hamilton county

cut operating budget 35 million per year to pay for stadiums until 2033 that simply

Some of these issues require that we trust our commissioners. I do not trust them to do what is right rather than what is politically convenient and ideologically driven for them.

The sherriff is a sacred cow, and ought to be brought under control. Do your job.

We do not need new jails. We need treatment programs, a functional education system, and jobs so that low-level offenders are rehabilitated, not locked up. These people should be turned into community assets.

I do not trust commissioners with consolidated levies. I just don't see how that would work for the citizens (I see how it would work for the politicians).

Our mass transit solutions are an embarrassment. Light rail will foster economic development, yet it gets turned down because "we don't want those people coming to our neighborhoods" - pure & simple racism in my opinion.

Health levies need to be updated in how they are used, but we need to be sure to maintain our university medical center. If left to the State of Ohio, they will cut UC, and that would be very bad for our economy. If we spent enough money on the mentally ill and people with substance abuse disorders, they would not be clogging up our jails - they would probably be holding down jobs.

Not one penny more for the crooks getting rich off our stadiums - what a mistake that was! No bailouts for fatcats.

As business is forced to do more with less, we should be running our government the same way - especially in these times. most of the questions are based upon expanding government budgets - perhaps it is time to start asking our government to stop spending more money than they have, and to work within existing budgets. as the economy goes (people suffering) so should government.

Metropolitan Sewer Sysem is wasting taxpayers money on problem of storm sewer overflow, which could be turned into resource by collection of rain water and creation of rain and roof gardens on a mass scale. \$3-4 billions is an outrageous sum to pass onto consumers when smarter solutions are possible at no cost.

I do think we should spend dollars on public health- just did not like how the options were worded. needed to reduce duplication of services.

I think that the time has come to combine city and county government. It would result in significant savings and better service.

My issue with the county seems to come down to the fact that there's a dual-bureaucracy at play. With more than one level of leadership (the county & the city of Cincinnati), the power struggles at play make it exponentially harder to fully conceive and implement correct and cost-efficient plans. Many cities throughout the U.S. (Indianapolis and Denver come to mind) have been able to consolidate their governments - though the process takes time and eliminates many public positions. However, for this region to succeed, this must be a debated issue. There is not enough local money in the city proper to make up for it's services to the county and region. Likewise, without the continuing growth of the suburbs and exurbs, the local economy will stagnate. At the crossing of these two tracts are the most important issues at play: the stadia debt, the lack of light-rail infrastructure, growing traffic jams, increasing poverty and blighted communities, poor public transportation, failing schools and communities whose levies fail to provide adequate funding for their schools. The issues are many and complex. However, the lack of a single-unifying bureaucracy makes these matters all-the-harder to resolve. Thank you. [REDACTED]

I think the Stadium users should be taxed not the rest of the county. The homeowners can't continue to be taxed, any new taxes should be sales taxes which all citizens must pay.

Reliable, low cost public transportation is essential.

Cut County operating budget to pay for stadium fund. NO RAISEING sales tax, AND NO TAKING OTHER LEVIES

Cut the Hamilton Operating Budget 40 million a year to pay for the stadium Funds. Cu sheriff department 25 million, cut prosecutor's office 2.5 million, replace court reporters with video recording devices., Cut probation 4 million. Cut Municipal Court 2.4 million. No more raise sales tax lower them, no raising property taxes make property a one time thing when buy house, no stealing other levies that voted for something health care. that fraud. stop trying to raise tax you made a deal live up to your agreement Cut Hamilton County Operating Budget 40 Million to Pay for the Stadium Funds. Thank You

The county and/or city should directly address the heinous cutback Metro has done on 12% of their bus routes. These have caused thousands of residents to lose either their jobs or hours on their jobs, including myself. Before you worry about streetcars that are primarily decorative, worry about restoring bus service to allow residents to get back to work.

I am concerned about "privatization" of public services. There are some functions that govenrment provides much better than private industry, particularly in the areas of enforcement of laws.

There seems to be an emphasis on providing services to the eastern corridor (Anderson is prominent in several questions) but not the west (Green Township is never mentioned).

Please do a better job of taking care of the people who work for you. They can't help the public if they are experiencing tough times themselves.

I really think that a rail system should not be the responsibility of the government at this time of economic hardship. I oppose the light rail and street cars that CIncinati is pushing. If more people in the suburbs that work and shop downtown don't use the public transportation that's available now, they're not going to use light rail or street cars either. I also believe that the Reds and the Bengals owners should have been footing the stadium expenses from the beginning. Our tax money should go to good education for our children, safety for our citizens and job creation. We need to bring in businesses that will stay past the CRA's we give them. Supporting local businesses is important, but I worry about price gouging if we limit contracts to only local business once they find out that we can't go outside the county to contract services. I wasn't aware that city and townships had to pay for the sherriff deputies to patrol within their areas. Don't our taxes already pay for them to patrol the whole county?

Please work with NFL officials to get the Bengals to make some concessions.

We need to implore a balance of service cuts and revenue enhancements, even if it means increased taxes or fees, in order to address our significant budget issues.

Focus on the core functions of government -- public safety, roads and bridges, sewers and water, etc -- and stop trying to solve the world's problems with my tax dollars. Don't add new programs to fight obesity or create land banks. That is not the core function of government, and it is definitely not something you do when times are hard. Forget about light rail or a train to Cleveland. We can't pay all our debts now, don't add more things we can't pay for. Find a way to pay for the stadiums, or better yet negotiate with the Bengals to go on and leave town.

We need to find some way to make Mike Brown and the Bengals feel responsible for their part of the budget deficit. Maybe some big additional income tax that taxes people making over a couple million dollars a year if they work in Cincinnati. This would get some players and coaches to pressure Brown too. Or maybe just hike the prices of the County services provided like police and traffic cops and things at PBS. He's not going anywhere. No other city would have him with his ridiculous demands, especially with the current economy.

jail the bastards who wrote the stadium contracts

For the transit station it should be in the Banks area so that those from out-of-town can easily get to ball games or connect to the streetcar system for events downtown/OTR or in the uptown area. This station should not be anywhere else if the city/county is serious about having a vibrant center city. For public health the county should be totally focused on prevention in all areas. Especially in the area of HIV and STD/STI since we have a very high rate of syphilis and other infections. I know the funding for free testing, treatment and educational services has been cut at all levels. This means the local government needs to step up and make sure this services are still readily available to all citizens. The drug laws should be looked at again and see what really needs to be enforced. This will help the justice center if no other beds are made available in the near future. The drug laws also need to be looked at when it comes to injection drug users. This population has exploded in recent years in the area. This means higher rates of HIV and Hepatitis C. When thinking of prevention in this area you cannot over look the impact that a clean needle exchange would have on this population. A clean syringe cost a few cents and studies have shown that a needle exchange can on average prevent 30 people a month from contracting HIV or Hepatitis C this means that the \$400,000 plus a year spent on treatment for these infections can be saved. Thank you for the opportunity to voice my views and I may in the future attend some county meetings.

Stop the street cars!

Cut the Hamilton County operating budget 37 million a year and pay for 14 year to the stadium fund. No new sales taxes and no new property taxes and no touching other levies funds the is wrong. the citizen already did there part of the by pay .5 sales tax already it time to live to the county part of the stadium deal. Cut Hamilton county 37 million a year for 14 year until stadium paid off. 37,000,000.00 million*19 years = 700,000,000.00 million dollars. then when stadium comes just put that in general Fund to subsidies General Fund loses. Thank You

It has long seemed to me that in the face of increasing deficits across the board and some forty years of widespread incarceration and increasing barbarism that we can no longer afford to prosecute the War on Drugs. Besides the lack of measurable benefit for the considerable expenditure -- a metric that so-called "conservatives" apparently only demand of programs providing benefit for ordinary families and individuals, and not militaristic or punitive initiatives -- we now have experienced a couple generations of the routine incarceration of Americans, disproportionately of color, and the attendant waste of lives and decline of health not only for the individuals incarcerated, but also for their families.

I write as someone who was incarcerated as a teenager, after I acted out in the face of constant harassment from my folks about smoking dope and skipping school. I contend that I would have figured things out sooner had I not had to fight so hard over what should have been comparatively trivial issues. A nine-month stint in Cincinnati Children's Home -- then a residential treatment facility --- in my teenage years effectively derailed my development, so I'm no generic fan of forced treatment. Instead, we need to have better comprehensive education about the effects of various substances presented in age-appropriate form to children early, and an emphasis that just as with driving drunk, intoxication is no excuse for causing damage rather than simply "Just Say No" and the lie that marijuana is as dangerous or debilitating as heroin or many legal and commonly-prescribed pharmaceuticals are.

At the same time, it would make all the difference in the world if people held in common a beautiful dream we could all believe in and a realistic chance of making it happen. Maybe I'm being a little nebulous here, but I get a funny feeling that despite whatever shortage or inadequacy of services available that a lot of us are sick and dying because we have too much trouble imagining ourselves into a lovely kind of future.

In my own life, I am working with neighbors to build community capabilities and neighborhood institutions. I intentionally live in a walking neighborhood and I think that we're all going to have to learn to fend for ourselves better, but also reclaim wealth and commons that have been stolen from the public, from ordinary workers, over the decades.

The information provided on these issues is vastly inadequate to provide any intelligent answers to these questions.

Jail Issue: educational programs would reduce repeat offenses instead of lock-ups, I believe give a man/woman hope an they will believe they can do better.

Medical issues- more bike/running/walk lanes and Physical Fitness programs back into elementary schools will help control young students being over weight.

No new taxes! Cut the spending and consolidate services.

Just cut spending.

Duplication of and gaps in delivery of services with the vast number of taxing entities I believe causes considerable waste of taxpayer dollars. It would behoove us all to SERIOUSLY consider consolidation of City of Cincinnati and Hamilton County government offices and services that would actually lead to less government and better service to taxpayers. Consolidating administrations and reducing the cost of multiple administering bodies would free up more dollars to be invested in direct services.

the questions are extremely biased and will not produce much in the way of actionable information.

Marijuana incarcerations are a waste of taxpayer time and money. Sell marijuana as you do alcohol and tax it. An exception being for harder drugs or drug transactions resulting in violence. That would free up jail space and allow many more impoverished people to seek jobs without the stigma of prison shadowing them.

I think that the idiots who've been involved with the decision making in this county should be thrown out of office and replaced with people who would actually work for the betterment of the people living here . My family is soooo fed up with all of the bullshit that the politicians here have unfairly placed upon the shoulders of the taxpayers in Cincinnati and Hamilton county , and continue to pass on to the taxpayers .

I believe that the stadiums should take care of themselves (higher ticket prices , parking fees , and beer or alcoholic beverage sales) and that presuming that certain revenues will meet assumed dollar amounts is the equivalent of putting a monkey in charge of my bank account .. Dumb mother f#\$ker! .. Get rid of them ALL !!!!

1) The previous tax levies for jails failed because there was pork/pet projects included in the levies. The last levy included money for rehabilitation and Sheriff's patrols throughout the county including Cincinnati. I voted no because of these ad-ons. Place a jail only levy and it will pass.

2) I do not favor any tax increase of any sort to support the stadiums. I have not nor will I ever attend an event at the stadiums. If a tax increase is imposed for the stadiums, I will conduct all of my business outside of Hamilton County so none of my tax revenues go to the county, even though this would be an extreme inconvenience. I am currently debating moving out of Hamilton County, the place where I have resided my entire 54 years, because of the mess created by the poor decisions of the elected officials.

No treet cars, no light rail, no tax increases, pay your bills(stadiums etc.) before you spend another nickle or you people are going to be looking for a new job come the next election.

Use common-sense. Make a distinction between wants and needs. Those actually paying the taxes should have more input than those merely benefiting from the services, etc. This is a very trying time for most people. There is a need to be practical, honest without regard to political correctness and re-election liabilities when making decisions. Government cannot provide everything that people seem to think they are entitled to because the people paying the bills cannot afford it. It is OK to say "no", we do not have the funds!

Hamilton County should not spend another dime on the Cincinnati Bengals and Paul Brown Stadium. If necessary, the County should declare bankruptcy and close the Stadium.
I no longer trust the sanctity of the voting process. The people in charge of my voting precinct seem incompetent to handle it. Some can not even spell.
DO NOT JEOPARDIZE PUBLIC SAFETY BY ENACTING REDUCTIONS AND/OR LAYOFFS IN COUNTY LAW ENFORCEMENT.
DO NOT DROP THE BALL ON GETTING AN AGREEMENT WORKED OUT WITH THE BENGALS. YOU NEED TO BE MORE FLEXIBLE IN NEGOTIATIONS WITH THEM. YOU HAVE NO OTHER OPTIONS, AT THIS POINT. YOU GOT YOURSELF INTO THIS MESS...YOU NEED TO GET OUT OF IT YOURSELF. DO NOT MAKE THE TAXPAYERS / COUNTY WORKERS / PUBLIC SAFETY SUFFER BECAUSE OF THIS DISASTER.
Not enough room. Most issue responses were vague and did not provide a full set of choices.
Quit wasting money. Stop all new projects. I'm on a budget, then you should be too. I can hardly wait until November!!!!!!
I do not believe that property owners should foot the bill for special levies. The services should be incorporated in the county budget and considered with all of the other items.
Public funds should be used to subsidize private business, even if they are sports related.
taxpayers are leaving Cincinnati and Hamilton Co. as fast as they can
Food stamps. Obesity is a problem. Possible solution to the use of food stamps would be to limit what products they could be used for. No sugar soft drinks, no fat snacks, only healthy food and produce.
I strongly support efforts to combine public services (garbage collection, police and fire, transportation, public works, etc.) from among the many county political subdivisions.
Taxpayers are tired of supporting stadiums most of us do not use. We are making millionaires out of the owners of the sports teams. Tax the people who actually can afford and want to go to the games.
It took some time to find this survey, a direct link on the web site at the left hand side would have been helpful, rather than having to go through the search process.
Do not let the City of Cincinnati build a streetcar system that goes nowhere and that we will end up supporting through taxes.
Would like to see the County appoint Board members to NON-Profit organizations receiving more than one million dollars in levy money. Have concerns that audits do not sufficiently address the use of taxpayers dollars in some non-profit organizations that are primarily funded thru levy dollars. This REALLY needs to be looked into !
We do not need a rail system. Most do not even use the buses. If we cannot pay for the football and baseball stadium, do not increase taxes they are too high now.. Let them go into foreclosure if the players and Paul Brown will not help. Let's change that Freedom center into a jail and not have to pay money to keep it open
Prioritize LIGHT RAIL from the suburbs to downtown!

I think we have donated more than enough to the Bengals and gotten little in return. I am opposed to any tax that continues to support the stadium fiasco.

I just returned from Portland Oregon which has an outstanding public transportation system in their metro area - and its free. Has Cincinnati really researched enough options before arriving at the current transportation proposals? Judging by city council's move to cut the east side transportation proposal off from any federal funds, I would say their agenda is a thinly veiled attempt to grab whatever they can get and leave the county to clean up the scraps - if there are any. I am a long term westside resident becoming increasingly cynical about the city's commitment to the whole community and am tired of paying their bills.

I believe the sports teams should pay all tax obligations from their revenue.

Several of your questions are very biased and the information presented is incorrect.

Abandon the street car project!

Just read the article regarding the ill advised street car program set up by City Council and how selfish they are regarding the light rail needed for the outlying areas. Berding is a joke, as well as many of the City Council. We need to cut them out of the County benefits, (if there are some?). Turn about should be fair play !!

Put rubber wheels on the City's Streetcars so their routes could easily be changed due to conditions or emergencies and put the whole thing under Queen City Metro control. It is stupid to go back to a rail based bussing system and a good model for the City to use would be the trolley system used in the Smokies! ALSO, why create competition for an already struggling METRO system - both systems will ultimately fail and need massive taxpayer support.

Taxes on property owners has gotten out of hand. I and my fellow taxpayers cannot be responsible for all of society's woes. Sometimes, JUST LIKE ME, you have to do WITHOUT.

What legal possibilities are there to make the stadiums supported privately rather than publicly (teams, concession owners, advertising, rental of stadium for concerts etc.) Also, I would support a tax on tickets for baseball and football games and concessions to help reduce public support of the stadiums.

to resolve stadium budget shortfall, tax the tickets in proportion to cost of stadiums. The users pay should pay. I am a season ticket owner at GAB.

I'm tired of property taxes going up when the value of my house went down (although the auditor refuses to acknowledge that). I don't think property owners should have to pay for the schools when some of us don't even have children!

Stop the streetcar nonsense!!!!

I think that the city and the county should combine resources and develop a plan to build a new jailhouse. I know that it has been tried before, and with the issue both new stadiums, it seems like an impossible task, but it is highly needed. Hopefully with the building of the new casino something can work out to accomplish this.

It would be nice to see city and county officials work together toward a common goal.

Stadium issue must be resolved with concessions from teams. Increased use of PB Stadium, increased tax on tickets and parking, and other ways for users of the stadium to pay more of the share MUST be included in the solution.

More of these surveys need to be available with more in depth ?'s/answers on all policies/projects

I hope that you can work with Cincinnati City Council to resolve their lack of support on the light rail. The eastern corridor does not really support my needs (Wyoming) but we need to begin somewhere. City Council is being terribly short sighted. And, protect University Hospital and the UC Med. school. My husband's neurologist practices at Univ. Hosp. Therefore we go to the emergency room of Univ. Hosp. when my husband has had a seizure because our doctor will have access to my husband's electronic medical records. I do not believe that the other emergency rooms (hospitals) will have the expertise or will be willing to deal with the violence based gunshots and stabbings that I witnessed on a late Sunday night at our last visit. This shocked middle class woman was appreciative of the help we got and on reflection, thankful that Univ. Hosp. is there for the community. My son-in-law, who accompanied us to the hospital, said to my daughter, "please, never bring me to this place!" Leave the hospital funding alone. Destroying our Medical school and taking health care support from the inner city is not the answer to funding the stadium.

Most every thing is for East side.. nothing for West side...rails would be nice and well as transportation for us to use to North areas of shopping and Fun. We West side folks keep taken in your trash and low life's while getting No Help with more Police help.Let's the bad and low life's move next to you families.

Don't let the street car project inside the city to spill out into a county tax hike like the freedom center or Union Terminal. Either it pays for itself or shut it down. If someone wants to visit an attraction up the admission price. Home owners are being taxed out of the county. With more going on fixed income its taxes or medications and sometimes food. Was born and raised here but I'm being run out.

Law enforcement in Hamilton County needs to become a Metro system. While trying to get some 45 jurisdictions to go along with this may be difficult the savings would be in the best interest of everyone

The Commissioners should spend less time dealing with issues in the City of Cincinnati and realize their help is need in other areas of the county. The Commissioners need to support its only county law enforcement unit which is the Sheriff's Patrol. The Commissioners need to stop taking sales stadium tax money and spending it on the banks. That is why the fund is in trouble.

Please make provisions to mow the grasses along the streets in the neighborhoods Beechmont avenue is a sight for bad eyes.... city workers need to pay more attention to clean-up the streets and sidewalks in the city.

Five commissioners instead of three, might provide for fuller discussion and less personal fighting.

I skipped the ones that I really have not been informed about. Please give us more information, and objective information.

A light rail system is a necessity!!!

The County needs to start operating more efficiently. The JFS office is a wreck and should cut services there and make every single dollar accountable. And the fact that Hamilton County has not had a successful audit in over 5 years it a terrible sign about how this county operates.

I am concerned about public transportation in the city and would really like to see that improved. We should invest public funds in that, to help people get around, and to protect the environment.

Cut Hamilton county operating operating Budget 60 million a year for 11.5 year to pay for stadiums funds in full. Use casino tax money starting in 2014 to subsidies loses in general Fund operating Budget. the county should only have 1600 employees any ways, please do not raise sales taxes, please do not raises property taxes, please do not takes levies that are vote for something poor medical care. that stealing. the citizen did there in this deal they paid half cents sales tax for the stadiums funds it you turn to full fill the county obligations to the deal. Hamilton needs to cut the sales taxes half cent and cut property tax to one time only %6 when you buy the like sales tax. cut property taxes every year make one time when you buy the house. that way we are not renting our land from the government instead we own house land and it can be taken away from the citizen then only the bank cab take for default of load then that help old people that own there how out right. Consolidate all 48 Hamilton county cities, town ships, and villages leave Cincinnati a long beside consolidating the 911 and the prosecutors between Cincinnati and Hamilton County. the rest of 48 cities, townships and villages total Government total consolidate will Hamilton County consolidate Police, fire, schools, 911, Road maintenance, all department, use old building as district sit for the sheriff, fire, firer all 48 mayor, trustees, local elected officials, rid police cheif, total take over all 48 budgets besides Cincinnati budget. But No metro government consolidate all 48 jurisdiction. keep independent election county officials a lone.

less government at all levels

no new jails, no streetcars, no more citizens paying the bengals to make money, prosecute Bedinghaus if there is any way possible - public official in cahoots with the bengals - ethical violation

get businesses to pay for things not taxpayers. we are the poorest folks in the county and have no method of making sneaky, underhanded deals. Cincinnati makes me sick and I hope to move to Europe. Quit taking years to make decisions, obviously too much government. Make our homes and streets safe and quit worrying about tourist attractions. Nobody wants to take a ride to the ghetto regardless of what vehicle they are in. Get your heads out of your 19th century asses and wake up.

Hamilton County Commissioners should regularly seek input from its citizens. The stadium issue is particularly troublesome. I can't believe that Beddinghouse was allowed to negotiate such onerous terms for the county. Where were the lawyers and any oversight? The stadium is used for a private enterprise at county expense. Sell the stadium and let the new owners work it out.

I hope the Commissioners come to realize the City of Cincinnati is not a partner with the County. The city is out for the city and no one else, look what they just did to the eastern rail line. Wake up Commissioners, The Sheriff is a valuable tool in this county and his patrols need to say even if paid for by county funds.

I'm tied of County leaders who always put the City of Cincinnati ahead of every other local government in the County - Harrison, Crosby Twp, Cheviot, Glendale, Colerain Twp, Addyston, Symmes Twp, Blue Ash, Sharonville, etc., etc.

It is amazing how all of the questions and services being offered in the survey were related. How can we better, jails, health care for the poor, etc. What about asking how can we make Hamilton County a haven for the super wealthy? How about figuring out how to make Hamilton County the hands down best place to create jobs in the United States? How can we make Hamilton County Residents not have to pay a Ohio State Income Tax? As far as the Bengals Stadium, how about you make the Bengals put there money where their mouth is...They pay rent for all games held in the stadium that the LOSE.

A streetcar in Cincinnati is such a foolish notion. And for the city not to cooperate with the County on the rail line is unheard of. Note: Internet voting and mail voting should never happen. Voting is going to the polling places and voting. Too much fraud in other ways. ONE BIG QUESTION. WHY CAN'T WE JUST HAND OVER THE STADIUM TO THE TEAMS AND RID OF THIS WHOLE MESS ONCE AND FOR ALL. I DO NOT WANT TO PAY FOR THE STADIUM PERIOD.

This space should be provided on individual questions, such as those covering the jail or health issues. None of the provided answers fit my position. Open ended answers to the stadium issue might give a clue to new solutions.

when the stadiums were constructed, it was stated that there would be a roll back of property taxes. now you are wanting to go against this. if you are going to break your promise to the taxpayers, then you should be able to break your promise to the stadiums. it is the taxpayers who elect you, not the team owners. you are there as a voice of the people, the majority of them. not just the two team owners. many of us are on fixed incomes. it appears that the people of the surrounding counties and states get the same benefits of us who live in hamilton county. it is the people of hamilton county and not those of the surrounding county and states that elect you.

1 - Make people who are in jail pay a fee for each day they are in there / garnish wages from them.

2 - people who are on government assistance, have them drug tested as I need to be drug tested to work and this would save a lot of govt assistance.

3 - Forget unnecessary / unneeded things for the time being: i.e. Take home cars, Trolley system, unneeded business trips....

NO NEW TAXES and GET RID OF THE WASTE

The home owners are taxed to the hilt and if you are a senior citizen you are being taxed out of your home. A sales tax is better than a property tax hike as the schools will still get their pound of flesh. Still wish we could hold the Brown's accountable for some of the costs we carry for them. Is it worth it.....not for most of us.

I am for consolidation of services whenever possible, the cutting of noneffective programs, making Mike Brown pay for the stadium since that makes him a rich man (cut salaries which are outrageous or let the people who use the facility pay for it), for lesser offences, give them community services to offset the diminishing services the city is offering. Interstate exits are a mess. It would just cost clippers and bags!!!!!!

I think this is very good effort, this internet-based poll, that is. Unfortunately, this will likely result in responder bias in that the responders likely will be better educated and more affluent because of access to this technology. I hope that you have outreach and promotions for this survey at local community councils and Hamilton Co. Public Library to help reduce bias due to skewed responder population.

I feel the City council members need to be renamed the Downtown council members - even though I live in the city of Cincinnati, I in no way feel represented by those chuckleheads. All they think about is that streetcar - as someone who sees ZERO reason to every go downtown (and you lose those stadiums as well), I could care LESS about the streetcar, and wish my hard-earned taxes stopped paying for those that don't bust their asses.

I think the council should provide additional incentives to attract business downtown - credits, lower taxes, lower parking prices, etc.

Hamilton County should reexamine its Eastern Corridor plan. Instead of locating a passenger rail line to the eastern suburbs along the riverfront, officials should pursue an alignment along the Wasson rail line that would serve more people, jobs and attractions.

Really looking forward to the streetcar and the casino. Love the support of OTR. I'll keep putting my money here if you'll keep supporting us.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide feedback. Please continue to work on the Eastern Corridor project.

Cut Hamilton County operating Fund budget 40 million a year for 17.5 years until stadium fund is paid off. do raise sales taxes or property taxes and do not use other levies to pay for stadium fund. Cut operating budget 40 million a year until stadium fund is paid off. the citizen did there part in this deal we paid %.5 cent sales tax to pay for stadiums now it you turn live to the county side of the deal. Do not even try to put it on the citizen of Hamilton county not even one year. take the money out of the sheriff budget, courts budget, prosecutor budget, probation budget. it counties turn to pay in this deal not the citizen. taxes in this county and in this state are way way too high. And when the County get money from the casino in 2014 use that money to subsidies the lost from the stadium funds. Hamilton county is no long competitive with Kentucky, OR Indiana.

I do not support the light rail system as long as the tracks used are also used for freight.

I live in Anderson Township and believe that the Sheriff's Department provides unnecessary services. A substation in the Anderson Town Station is absurd as is 2 officers riding their bikes on the trail all day.

Who would want to move here, or continue to live here? There's nothing in your survey that concerns sustainable land use and protecting Hamilton County's natural land and water resources, including our disappearing agricultural lands. These are all crucial to future economic growth and quality of life. "Conservation" should be a public policy.

I wish you had put forth a concept of consolidating City and County governments. You need to innovate, cooperate, and consolidate to survive successfully in the 21st century. You need only look at Louisville to see how the City jumped forward light years when they consolidated City and County governments.

Surveys should be mailed to determine probable use of Cincinnati-Columbus-Cleveland rail line. Questions should be included to determine needed links to local transportation.

Invest in local health centers where people can go for minor health issues instead of emergency rooms, then advertise so people use them. Property taxes are outrageous; I hate paying for levies for services I will never use or can't afford, like the zoo and the reds & bengal stadiums.

Continue to provide Sheriff's Patrols throughout Hamilton County

The effort to eliminate Sheriff's Patrols would effectively eliminate the County Government's ability to provide and assist with basic police service to County residents. It would also leave the County Commissioners without a means to provide for police services to the unincorporated areas of the County in day to day business and emergencies both natural or manmade. They are a positive presence in the communities they serve.

Our grandkids demand that we quit spending more than we have!

Forget the street cars and do the same as KY and run buses.

I highly support measures taken for mass transit, light rail, and safe bicycle routes. I also support revitalizing funds towards the arts in Hamilton County.

Raising taxes is not a good idea. Ohioans are taxed too much as it is. Lower the tax rate, encourage workers to live and work in Hamilton Co. and revenues will increase. Make Hamilton Co. a desirable place to live and work.

First, I don't support the stadiums. Let the people who use the venue pay for the venue. Bedinghaus should be prosecuted for the input on the stadiums, but look where he works. what a joke. and second. if please don't do away with the sheriff's patrol, this area is totally increasing in crime and it is only getting worse

Hamilton county can't bailout the city of Cincinnati the city need to pays it's own way for jails and street repairs and kick in more for the stadiums and riverfront since the will benefit the most from them.

Thanks for making this available. Until the day arrives when elected Ham. Co. & city officials stop bickering between parties and entities and realize they are holding back progress into the 21st century, then this city, which has so much potential, will always be a 2nd or 3rd tier city. Stadium fund deficit, criminal justice system(Why don't we have term limits for Sheriff & Cty. Procecutor?), mass transit(why wasn't light rail installed from airport to downtown years ago?), health care are problems that need everyone, including business leaders, coming together for solutions. Until then, Northern KY will just keep sitting back and watching our mistakes & stumbles and then go out and do something great.

the survey did not ask questions about what citizens think about reducing the size of county government or if citizens approve of current pay structure, benefits and pensions of county employees. Also , it would have been appropriate for more citizens to know about this survey through more media sources.

No matter what the budget or public policy issues, budget reduction, elimination of waste, and accountability for existing expenditures is paramount. All citizens should face inconvenience and belt tightening. New programs should be tabled until we get our economic house in order. Promising that new expenditures will save money in the future is futile if we cannot live within our means currently.

I'd like to see more focus on controlling spending instead of "how many ways can we come up with to raise taxes".

fix county rd

I hope the county will continue to look for ways to partner with the City of Cincinnati. Thank you for this survey.

I am definitely for light rail.

In reference to the rail system and the millions of dollars that will be spend, i believe CRIME should be a priority, thus increasing house taxes due to increased home value and then the extra money will be available to build the downtown train. A reduction in crime is a MUST!!

I believe if you raise the sales tax to 8% you would bring in money not just from those in the county but from visitors in the city and county. this may elevate the tax shortfall instead of raising property taxes.

With the issue concerning overcrowded emergency rooms why not utilize or set up remote nonemergency rooms

Has any study been done on the value/savings of those County functions that have been privatized? Personally, I have not seen any savings nor have I been satisfied with the Private Sector's performance. They are more concerned with lining their own pockets! Drake Hospital stands out as one of the greatest mistakes!!

Building a streetcar system in Cincinnati will prove to be a huge waste of money and an ongoing drain on the public budget . . . a "white elephant" . . . much like the Underground Railroad Freedom Center. I can't imagine who would ride the streetcar, especially on a regular basis. Shuttle buses would be a better and cheaper alternative to a streetcar system, much like T.A.N.K. does between Covington and Cincinnati. That could even be a precursor to building a streetcar system . . . try a shuttle bus system first, to see if there is demand for transportation on the proposed route.

The Streetcar Project is a bad idea that, in 10 years, will have the same result as the Stadium projects: it will put the County further in debt. The County and City leaders should be impeached for ignoring the will of its citizens for pursuing it further.

I am very unhappy with the state of the roads in the county. Maintenance of the roads should be a top priority, and if a levy is needed, then put one on the ballot for the voters to decide.

MY SALARY HAS BEEN CUT 5% THIS YEAR. I AM CUTTING BACK UNNECESSARY PERSONAL SPENDING AND I NEED THE COUNTY TO DO THE SAME. THANKS.

I would spend more time downtown if I had better transportation there like St. Louis. I would love to see light rail go East, West, North (to Dayton) and South (to the Airport) and connect all parts of Southwest Ohio/N.KY with easy access.

I am definitely NOT in favor of the street car plan.

I am in favor of the light rail. Denver uses buses in the downtown area which are free and this seems to work well.

If Hamilton Co. doesn't receive any tax money from gasoline sales, we should do so. This money should be used for all transportation modes, not just roads and bridges.

Tax on sports tickets

I oppose any tax that increases the burden on the property owner and the county gov needs to be more responsible about for instance, not taking tax dollars targeted for the stupid stadiums and spending it on the Banks and then coming up shorhanded. I also oppose hiring outside law firms when we pay a fortune for plenty of them in the county system..The taxpayer is really fed up with irresponsible spending especially in the Cincinnati area..for which I blame the city council also. A metropolitan gov as in Indianapolis Nashville and many others is so much more useful.

Please utilize facebook and other social networking sites. It would be great to see a place to "share" this survey on facebook! You would get much more feedback that way. I just happened to stumble upon it. Facebook is a great way to gather data!

NO TO BIGGER GOVERNMENT

I would support more consolidation between county and city to gain efficiencies and cost savings for taxpayers.

I responded "none of the above" either when I did not understand the options or when I disagreed with them. Your survey requires a level of understanding of County governing issues that is sometimes beyond my current knowledge.

I'd like to see serious consideration to a metrogov similar to Louisville's and other cities.

I believe that we have already paid enough for these boondoggle stadium projects. The sports teams, and the people who buy the tickets should pay a tariff at the box office to meet their deficit. They should further pay the county back for money already used to enrich and to entertain a select few; and that recovered money should be used to improve the school system.

publish the results of this survey when completed on the county website.

The County should seriously consider challenging the Ohio State law preventing Counties from using sale-lease backs of commercial properties as a measure to generate revenue. The practice can be an ideal exit strategy for removing assets from the County's balance sheet. And assuming the County is wise in selecting the properties to vacate, can lead to improved operational efficiency and reduced real estate expenses, while also providing a one-time capital infusion.

Rail initiatives are a waste of money. It is insane to pursue this kind of spending when basic commitments cannot be kept.

Thank you for asking for input through this survey.

The county is so on debt, it should not be thinking about land banking. They need to worry about how to pay for the stadiums.

We are against any further levies being brought before us and it is a travesty that we still support Drake which is making a profit.

it's time to put extreme pressure on the Begals. I voted against the stadiums since I knew that it was a bottomless pit. Where are those people who signed the county away? Let's hear some of the county republicans come up with a solution. The democrats share some of the blame for our budget woes.

cut Hamilton county operating budget 50 million for 14 year to pay for stadiums fund. Do not raise sales taxes, not raise property taxes, not steal from other levies. the citizen did their part in this deal it's time to live up to their part of the deal stop put it off on the citizens cut operating budget 50 million for 14 years to pay for stadium funds. Thank you

The numerous townships, small cities, City of Cincinnati, all within Hamilton County, create duplicate services, not cost efficient, etc. Pursue as many consolidated efforts as possible. I would support a single regional government, combining city/county functions.

The number of people jailed in our country is ludicrous. I will never support funding for yet another jail. Rather, funds should be poured into beginning to fix the social & environmental problems which cause the crime and sale of drugs as the 'best' employment option. Promote, promote, promote education for the poor and inner city children. Afterschool programs. Incentives for staying in school. Creative job training. Jobs in the city and near suburbs, as transportation is such an issue. Make transportation less of an issue... Better and more affordable housing options. We have got to start focusing on the problems of the African-American community. Help them to help themselves. Enlist churches, corporations, community organizations. Should be a major priority.

The city and county police and prosecutor's department have far too long been run by the conservative west-side "law and order" guys. We really need some fresh blood, new ideas, new attitude. I look at the leadership in these departments as the bad guys. And I'm a white, highly educated female raised in Colerain Township (albeit I'm gay, very liberal, sometimes libertarian views...).

Thanks for the opportunity to provide feedback.

I do't support spending of any taxpayer money for streetcars in Cincinnati. I would like a light rail and or public transportation in the county that make sense for all county residents not just those in the little city of Cincinnati.

We need thoughtful development, commuter rail that serves a majority - without damage to our neighborhoods -(not just stadium owners), and assistance to our small business development for quality of urban and suburban areas. I love the idea of reviewing all levy dollars and who truly benefits from them. Private foundations , 501Cs etc. should have open records. Smart development should consider walking to school, work, shopping - smaller buildings more green space.

Thank you

I support consolidation of services wherever possible. I absolutely support a city-county form of gov't. similar to Miami-Dade in Florida. (I think Columbus & Indianapolis also have this form of gov't?) My property taxes are too high. I paid \$160K for my city condo that it worth, at best, \$130K now. Yet, my yearly tax bill is nearly \$3,300!

find a way to address the stadia bond payments deficit without reducing county services. Bengals and reds should not profit at the expense of hamilton county taxpayers.It is obscene.

Property taxes should be lowered.

Is it true that some groups get to keep their sales tax revenue. If so, this practice must be stopped. The county should stop payments on the stadiums if the sports teams aren't willing to pay their share.

I am concerned about the lack of justice and ethics that prevails in Hamilton County Domestic Court. When the outcome is decided before the facts are presented and decisions are arbitrary and gender based, this becomes a serious issue for the individuals involved as well as for the county.

Decisions that are not equitable increase the number of uninsured of individuals. This negatively impacts the county's healthcare system requiring more public funding and the loss of preventive care. This also adds to the number of individuals at the poverty level, another negative for the county.

The healthcare reform does not offer solutions for those who have just enough not to qualify for medicaid, but not enough to pay for insurance.This is especially punitive to those that are over 40 or 50 and have more pre-existings that interfere with the ability to earn a living wage.

Attorneys deliberately misrepresent the clients that are predetermined to lose. They are passive and withhold necessary facts resulting in an inadequate defense. This enables the Court to rule against these clients. The losing individuals also bear a greater proportion of the legal costs since their attorneys are required to draft most of the necessary documents and stipulations, none of which are written in their favor.

Since very little of domestic law here is "black law", the judges are given "carte blanche" to render unjust decisions. Much is left to the "discretion of the Court". There are no ethics in these practices. The misrepresented clients are charged high fees for services they never received.

Hamilton County Domestic Court has a reputation for a lack of justice and equity. Any interviews with Divorce Recovery instructors will corroborate this.

These practices occur both in "Collaboration" as well as in Court. In Collaboration all participants are required to sign a contract which is then ignored. Changing attorney's does not vary the outcome no matter who is involved.

Need to enlarge size of county commission to reflect amount of work. Rail connections to other cities should be a priority.

I am very concerned about the lack of transparency at the Hamilton County Board of DDS. I've looked at some of the board's expenditures and am appalled at how much money goes to services which don't benefit the target constituency.

I prefer a state-wide publicly funded health care system. Historically we will need that in one or more states before we can have a national health care system. The current national legislation will be prohibitively expensive.

I am very skeptical of anything that is called reform. Please do not "reform" anything. It is not right for the government to use the people's money to buy land and compete with private enterprise. The government should work with the people as opposed to competing with its citizens in land speculation.

There is no reason for the Hamilton County Sheriff to be patrolling the Townships when he can't maintain a jail.

consolidation of all municipal, township, and county services into a more metropolitan government